

Interred lapplication No. PCT/ES-5/00245

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7: C12Q 1/68, C12N 15/62

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

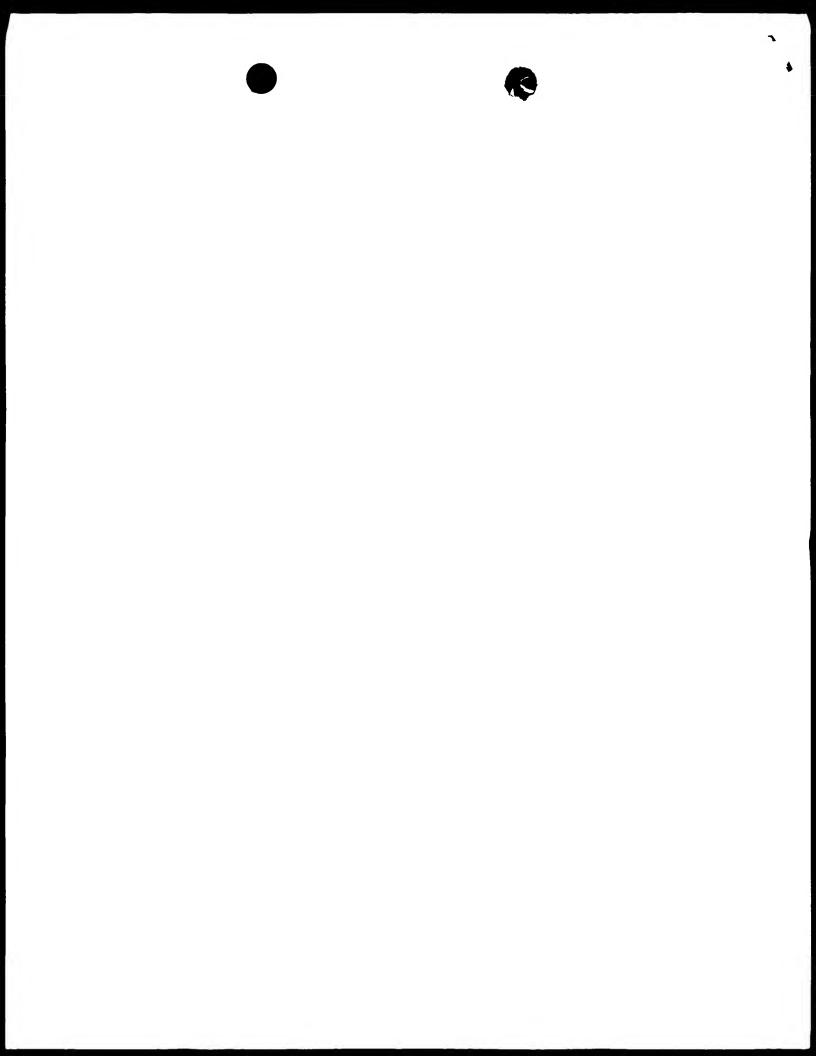
IPC 7: C12Q, C12N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

CIBEPAT, EPODOC, WPI, EMBASE, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, CA, STRAND

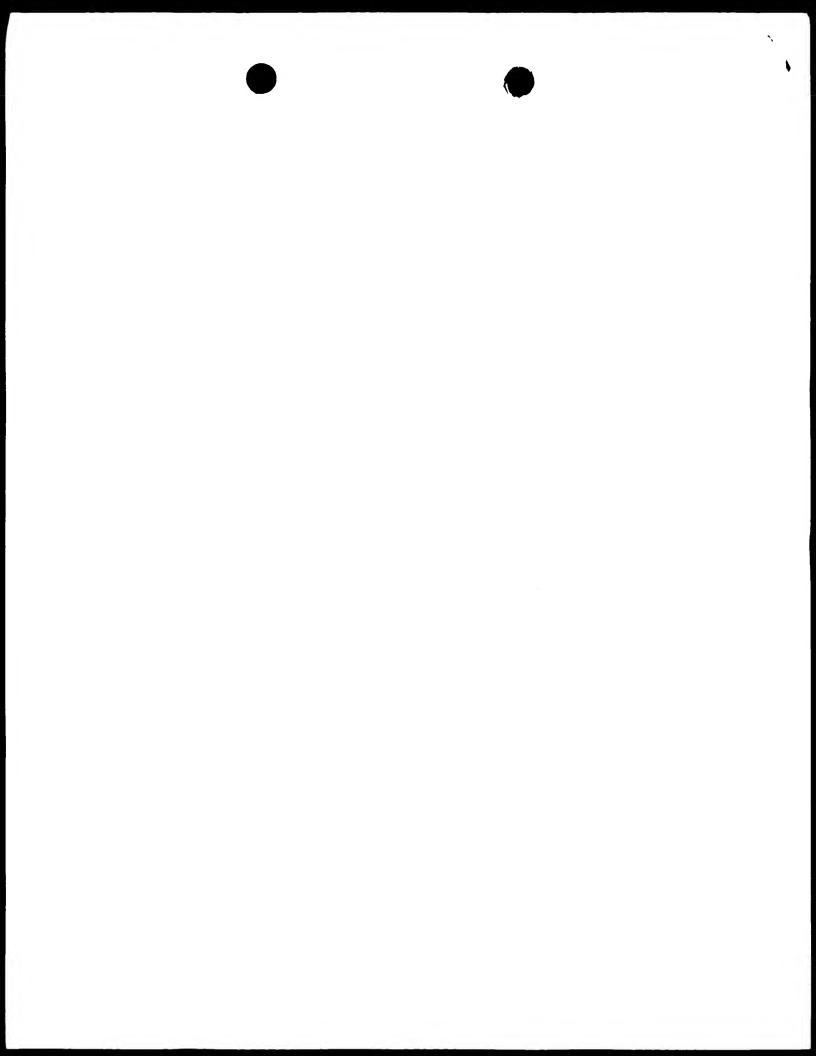
WO 9837235 A (CORNELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.) 27 August 1998 (27.08.98) X page 4, line 35 – page 5, line 15; page 6, line 9- page 7, line 2; page 8, line 3 –	C. DOCUM	IENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
X page 4, line 35 – page 5, line 15; page 6, line 9- page 7, line 2; page 8, line 3 – page 9, line 3; example 1; claims 1-9 X JAOU-CHEM, H et al. «Gene transfer to cultured human endometrial stromal cells: a model to study cyclooxygenase-2 gene regulation», FERTILITY AND STERILITY, 1998, Vol.70, No. 4, pages 734-739. The whole document X HIROYASU, I. et al. «Transcriptional role of nuclear factor KB site in the induction by lipopolysaccharide and suppression by dexamethasone of cydoxygenase-2 in U937 cell». BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS, 1998, Vol. 244, pages 143-148. The whole document Y US 5556754 A (SINGER et al.) 17 September 1996 (17.09-96) I-9 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance: "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "E" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "E" document member of the same patent family	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	
Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "E" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	Y X	27 August 1998 (27.08.98) page 4, line 35 – page 5, line 15; page 6, line 9 page 9, line 3; example 1; claims 1-9 the whole document JAOU-CHEM, H et al. «Gene transfer to cultucells: a model to study cyclooxygenase-2 gene STERILITY, 1998, Vol.70, No. 4, pages 734-7 the whole document HIROYASU, I. et al. «Transcriptional role of rinduction by lipopolysaccharide and suppressic cydooxygenase-2 in U937 cell». BIOCHEMIC RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS, 1998, Vol. 2015.	red human endometrial stromal regulation», FERTILITY AND 739. nuclear factor KB site in the on by dexamethasone of AL AND BIOPHYSICAL	1-9 1-9	
*Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "E" later document published after the international filing date but later than the priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention of priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an invention cannot be document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot on the priority date of another citation or other step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot on the priority date of another citation or other step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot on the priority date of another citation or other step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot on the priority	Y	1	1996 (17.09.96)	1-9	
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Internal al application No. PCT/ES 00/00245

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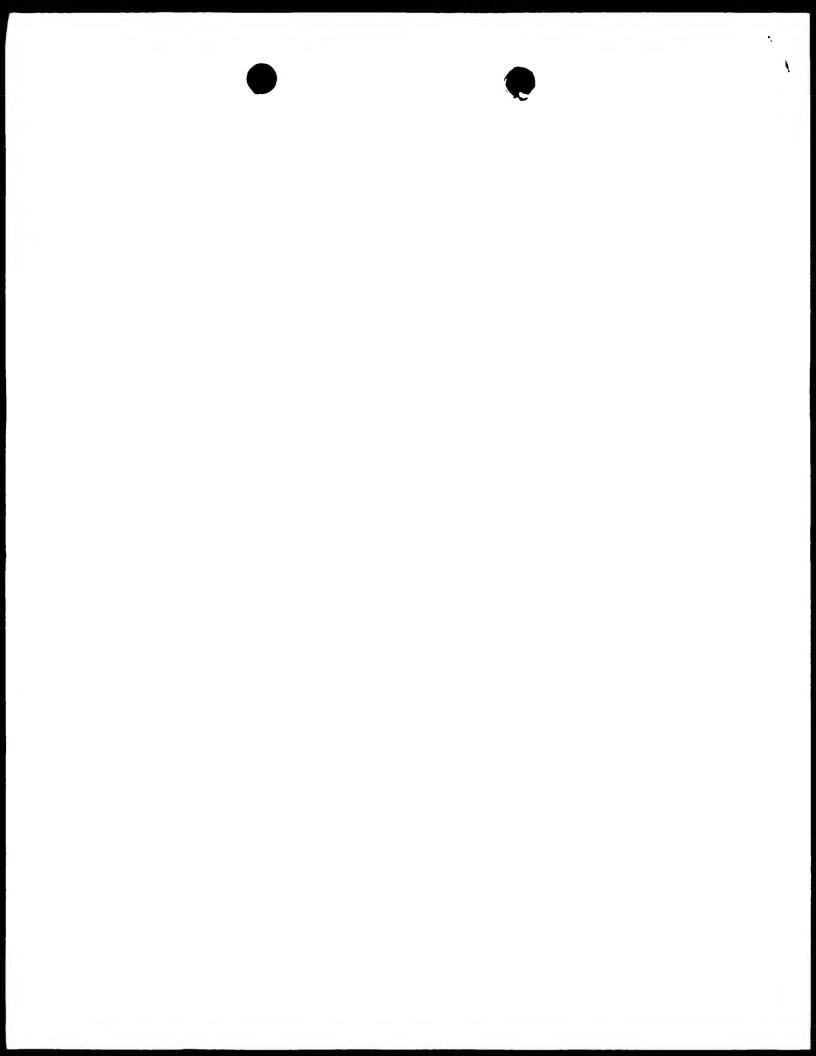




International Application No

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(19) Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual

Oficina internacional



(43) Fecha de publicación internacional 18 de Enero de 2001 (18.01.2001)

PCT

(10) Número de Publicación Internacional WO 01/04350 A1

- (51) Clasificación Internacional de Patentes?: C12Q 1/68. C12N 15/62
- (21) Número de la solicitud internacional: PCT/ES00/00245
- (22) Fecha de presentación internacional:

11 de Julio de 2000 (11.07.2000)

(25) Idioma de presentación:

español

(26) Idioma de publicación:

español

(30) Datos relativos a la prioridad:

P 9901557 12 de Julio de 1999 (12.07.1999) ES

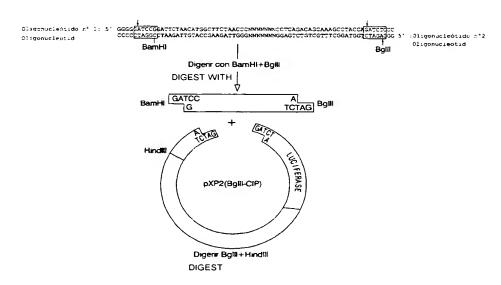
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[Continúa en la página siguiente]

- (54) Title: CELL LINE COMPRISING THE PROMOTER OF CYCLOOXYGENASE-2 (COX-2) AND A WITNESS GENE, AND USE THEREOF IN THE SEARCH OF COX-2 TRANSCRIPTIONAL INDUCTION SELECTIVE INHIBITORS
- (54) Título: LINEA CELULAR QUE COMPRENDE EL PROMOTOR DE LA CICLOOXIGENASA-2 (COX-2) Y UN GEN TESTIGO. Y SU EMPLEO EN LA BUSQUEDA DE INHIBIDORES SELECTIVOS DE LA INDUCCION TRANSCRIPCIONAL DE COX-2



(57) Abstract: The cell line comprises a DNA construction which includes all or part of a promoter sequence of the cyclooxygenase-2 (cox-2) gene and a witness gene, operatively jointed to each other, so that said promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene directs the expression of said witness gene in response to an adequate stimulus. The assay method comprises contacting said cell line with the compound to be assayed and determining the existence of a signal which is indicative of the expression of the activity due to the witness gene. Said method is appropriate for searching cox-2 transcriptional induction selective inhibitors through appropriate stimuli.

WO 01/04350 A

WO 01/04350 A1



- (81) Estados designados (nacional): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Estados designados (regional): patente ARIPO (GH. GM. KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), patente euroasiática (AM. AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), patente europea (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), patente OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, Cl, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Publicada:

- Con informe de búsqueda internacional.
- Antes de la expiración del plazo para modificar las reivindicaciones y para ser republicada si se reciben modificaciones.
- Con (una) indicación(es) relativa(s) a material biológico depositado en virtud de lo dispuesto en la Regla 13bis. aparte de la descripción.

Para códigos de dos letras y otras abreviaturas, véase la sección "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" que aparece al principio de cada número regular de la Gaceta del PCT.

(57) Resumen: La línea celular comprende una construcción de DNA que comprende la totalidad o parte de una secuencia promotora del gen de la ciclooxigenasa 2 (cox-2) y un gen testigo, unidos operativamente entre sí, de manera que dicha secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 dirige la expresión de dicho gen testigo en respuesta a un estímulo adecuado. El método de ensayo comprende poner en contacto dicha línea celular con el compuesto a ensayar y determinar la existencia de una señal indicativa de la expresión de actividad debida al gen testigo. Este método es adecuado para la búsqueda de inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 por estímulos apropiados.

LINEA CELULAR QUE COMPRENDE EL PROMOTOR DE LA CICLOOXIGENASA-2 (COX-2) Y UN GEN TESTIGO, Y SU EMPLEO EN LA BÚSQUEDA DE INHIBIDORES SELECTIVOS DE LA INDUCCIÓN TRANSCRIPCIONAL DE COX-2

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CAMPO DE LA INVENCIÓN

Esta invención se relaciona, en general, con la búsqueda de productos con potenciales aplicaciones terapéuticas. En particular, la invención se refiere a un método para la búsqueda de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la ciclooxigenasa-2 que comprende el empleo de una línea celular que expresa de forma estable una construcción de DNA en la que la secuencia promotora del gen de la ciclooxigenasa-2 dirige la expresión de un gen testigo en respuesta a los estímulos apropiados.

ANTECEDENTES DE LA INVENCIÓN

La ciclooxigenasa (cox) es una enzima implicada en numerosos procesos. Se conocen dos isoformas de la cox, la ciclooxigenasa 1 (cox-1) y la ciclooxigenasa 2 (cox-2). Aunque ambas isoformas están relacionadas con la producción de prostaglandinas involucradas en procesos fisiológicos, parece ser que la cox-2 es la isoforma predominante implicada en diversas patologías como la inflamación, la carcinogénesis, la angiogénesis y algunos procesos neurodegenerativos.

La inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 se produce en respuesta a númerosos factores, entre los que se encuentran, la expresión de oncogenes, el tratamiento con promotores de tumores, mitógenos, estímulos proinflamatorios, factores de crecimiento y citoquinas

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[revisado en Smith and DeWitt, 1996; Griswold and Adams, 1996; Jouzeau et al., 1997 (véase el apartado relativo a la BIBLIOGRAFÍA)]. En la mayoría de los casos la inducción de esta enzima se traduce en un aumento en la síntesis de prostaglandinas, aunque no se pueden descartar otros modos de actuación.

La capacidad de ciertas drogas de la familia de los antiinflamatorios no esteroideos (NSAIDs) de inhibir la cox-2 explica sus efectos terapéuticos [revisado en Smith and DeWitt, 1996; Griswold and Adams, 1996; Jouzeau et al., 1997]. Asimismo, existen evidencias crecientes de que la inhibición de la cox-2 tanto por NSAIDs como por glucocorticoides o por ciclosporina A posee propiedades inmunosupresoras [Iñiquez et al., 1998; Hall and Wolf, 1997; Zhou et al., 1994; y las revisiones citadas anteriormente]. Otras acciones de la inducción de la cox-2 se refieren a la implicación de ésta en cáncer, angiogénesis y procesos neurodegenerativos como enfermedad de Alzheimer. Se ha comprobado que tanto la inhibición de la inducción a nivel transcripcional cox-2 como la inhibición enzimática de la cox-2 atenúan estos procesos[Shiff et al., 1996; Tsujii et al., 1997 y 1998; Subbaramiah et al., 1998; Pasinetti, 1998].

Tras el descubrimiento de la isoforma inducible cox
2 de la enzima ciclooxigenasa, los métodos de
identificación de nuevos fármacos antiinflamatorios han
tenido como objetivo seleccionar compuestos inhibidores
selectivos de la actividad enzimática cox-2 frente a la
isoforma constitutiva cox-1. Existen varios tipos de
sistemas al respecto. Unos utilizan ensayos in vitro
utilizando enzima cox-2 purificada o semipurificada

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[Famaev, 1997; Noreen et al., 1998]. Otros autores utilizan líneas celulares animales o humanas que expresan en condiciones predominantemente la isoforma cox-2 naturales o tras la inducción con estímulos [Famaey, 1997; Berg et al., 1997]. Algunos emplean líneas celulares de origen animal o humano en las sobreexpresan la proteína cox-2 mediante transfección estable del cDNA de la misma [Lora et al., 1997; O'Neill et al., 1995; Cromlish and Kennedy, 1996]. En algún caso se ha llegado a determinar mediante el análisis del mRNA si tales compuestos inhiben a nivel transcripcional la inducción de la cox-2 [Tao et al., 1998; Subbaramiah et al., 1998]. También se han establecido sistemas de estudio de compuestos inhibidores mediante ensayos in vivo, ya sea con sangre entera o con células purificadas de donantes sanos [Famaey, 1997; Brideau et al., 1996].

En cualquier caso, la mayor limitación de estos sistemas radica en que permiten seleccionar compuestos inhibidores de la actividad enzimática de la enzima cox-2, sin atender a sus efectos sobre la inducción de la producción de la producción de la producción de prostaglandinas por esta enzima. Además de esta limitación, ha quedado demostrado que las potencias relativas de estos compuestos varían para el mismo fármaco entre diferentes tipos de ensayos. Asimismo, un aspecto importante a considerar tiene que ver con la inhibición de la actividad cox-2 fisiológica, que también se vería inhibida por el tipo de compuestos identificados por los sistemas mencionados, lo que podría derivar en efectos secundarios adversos.

Existe, por tanto, la necesidad de desarrollar un

método para la búsqueda de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 por diferentes estímulos que supere los inconvenientes arriba mencionados.

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COMPENDIO DE LA INVENCIÓN

Esta invención proporciona una solución a necesidad existente que consiste en el desarrollo de un sistema de ensayo para la búsqueda de compuestos la inhibidores selectivos de inducción a transcripcional de la cox-2 por diferentes estímulos. Este criterio permite seleccionar compuestos que inhiben la producción de la cox-2, con lo que actuarán como inhibidores de las acciones derivadas del incremento de la expresión de la cox-2 y del consiguiente aumento de la producción de prostaglandinas que desencadenan diversos procesos patológicos. Entre otros procesos, se pueden destacar procesos inflamatorios, proliferación celular incontrolada, angiogénesis, carcinogénesis y patologías neurodegenerativas, tal y como se describió anteriormente. El selección criterio para la compuestos según esta invención radica en la inhibición de la actividad inducible del promotor de la cox-2, con lo cual no se seleccionarán aquellos compuestos que inhiban la actividad basal fisiológica de producción de la cox-2.

Para el desarrollo de la solución aportada por esta invención, ha sido necesario construir una línea celular que expresa de forma estable una construcción de DNA en la que la secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 dirige la expresión del gen testigo en respuesta a un estímulo

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adecuado. La regulación de la expresión del gen de la cox-2 viene determinada por la actividad reguladora de su promotor, mientras que la medida de la actividad del gen testigo proporciona una medida indirecta de la actividad del promotor de la cox-2 en respuesta a diferentes agentes.

Por consiguiente, un objeto de esta invención lo constituye una construcción de DNA (o DNA recombinante) que comprende una secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 y un gen testigo, operativamente unidos entre sí, de manera que dicha secuencia promotora del gen dirige la expresión del gen testigo en respuesta a un estímulo adecuado.

Un objeto adicional de esta invención lo constituye un vector, tal como un plásmido o un vector de expresión, que comprende dicha construcción de DNA.

Otro objeto adicional de esta invención lo constituye una línea celular que contiene dicha construcción de DNA, o dicho plásmido que contiene dicha construcción de DNA, y la expresa de forma estable.

Finalmente, otro objeto adicional de esta invención lo constituye un método para la búsqueda de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la ciclooxigenasa-2 que comprende el empleo de dicha línea celular que expresa de forma estable dicha construcción de DNA.

BREVE DESCRIPCIÓN DE LAS FIGURAS

La Figura 1 muestra la secuencia de la zona promotora del gen cox-2. Las flechas indican las secuencias de hibridación de los oligonucleótidos

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utilizados en la reacción de PCR [reacción en cadena de la polimerasa].

La Figura 2 muestra la estrategia de clonaje de la región promotora del gen cox-2 en el plásmido pXP2 para obtener la construcción prom2-1906-LUC.

La Figura 3 muestra los resultados del análisis por RT-PCR [transcripción inversa-reacción en cadena de la polimerasa] de la expresión del mRNA de cox-2 en células Jurkat. En la Figura 3(A) se muestra el efecto del tratamiento con PMA y con PMA + Ionóforo de calcio A23187, en adelante PMA+Ion, en la expresión del mRNA de cox-2. En la Figura 3(B) se muestra la inhibición por ciclosporina de la inducción transcripcional de cox-2. Como control en ambos casos se muestra el resultado obtenido para los mRNAs no inducibles de la isoforma cox-1 y de la glicerol-aldehído deshidrogenasa (GAPDH).

La Figura 4 muestra el resultado de la estimulación por PMA o por PMA+Ion de la actividad luciferasa en células Jurkat transfectadas transitoriamente con la construcción prom2-1906-LUC. Como control se comprueba que tanto la construcción prom1-898-LUC como el plásmido vacío pXP2 no son inducibles.

La Figura 5 muestra el resultado de la inhibición por ciclosporina A (CsA) de la estimulación causada por PMA+Ion de la construcción prom2-1906-LUC en la transfección transitoria en células Jurkat.

La Figura 6 muestra los resultados de un experimento de transfección transitoria con la construcción prom2-1906-LUC y tratamiento con dexametasona.

La Figura 7 muestra los resultados de la actividad luciferasa de los diferentes clones obtenidos tras la

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transfección estable con la construcción prom2-1906-LUC.

La Figura 8 muestra los resultados de la inhibición por ciclosporina A (CsA) de la estimulación por PMA+Ion de la actividad luciferasa de los clones estables de Jurkat-1906LUC.

La Figura 9 muestra los resultados obtenidos para la inhibición por el glucocorticoide Dexametasona (Dex) sobre la estimulación por PMA+Ion de la actividad luciferasa de los clones estables de Jurkat-1906LUC.

La Figura 10 muestra la inhibición por Resveratrol (Res) de la inducción de la actividad luciferasa de los clones estables como control del sistema de ensayo.

DESCRIPCIÓN DETALLADA DE LA INVENCIÓN

Esta invención proporciona una construcción de DNA (o DNA recombinante) que comprende la totalidad o parte de una secuencia promotora del gen de la ciclooxigenasa 2 (cox-2) y un gen testigo, operativamente unidos entre sí, de manera que dicha secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 dirige la expresión de dicho gen testigo en respuesta a un estímulo adecuado.

La secuencia promotora del gen cox-2 puede tener cualquier origen, aunque preferentemente dicha secuencia procederá del gen humano de la cox-2.

Como gen testigo puede utilizarse cualquier gen testigo capaz de producir una señal fácilmente detectable, de los habitualmente utilizados en este tipo de ensayos de trasfección, por ejemplo, el gen de la cloranfenicol acetil transferasa (CAT), el gen de la beta galactosidasa (\$\beta\$-gal), el gen de la luciferasa, por ejemplo, de luciérnaga o de Renilla. En una realización

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particular de esta invención dicho gen testigo es el gen de la luciferasa de luciérnaga por la extrema sensibilidad, rapidez, facilidad y bajo coste del ensayo de detección de la misma.

La invención también proporciona un vector, tal como un plásmido o un vector de expresión, que contiene la construcción de DNA previamente mencionada. En principio, puede utilizarse cualquier vector apropiado para insertar en él dicha construcción de DNA. Estos vectores son útiles para transformar células.

La línea celular proporcionada por esta invención comprende, y expresa de forma estable, dicha construcción de DNA que comprende la totalidad o parte de una secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 y un gen testigo, operativamente unidos entre sí, de manera que dicha secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 dirige la expresión de dicho gen testigo en respuesta a un estímulo adecuado.

La línea celular transformada que contiene construcción de DNA previamente mencionada puede proceder de cualquier línea celular adecuada capaz de expresar de forma estable dicha construcción de DNA, por ejemplo, de una línea celular de origen humano tal como una línea de células de tipo linfocito T, células Hep-G2 derivadas de un carcinoma hepatocelular, células Hela derivadas de un cervix, células tipo monocitoadenocarcinoma de macrófago, por ejemplo, las líneas U937 y THP-1, etc. En una realización particular de esta invención, se ha seleccionado la línea celular Jurkat (descrita originalmente por Schneider et al., 1977) como ejemplo representativo de una línea celular transformada de tipo

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linfocito T como modelo de estudio de la expresión de un gen relacionado con la respuesta inmune. Además, dicha línea celular es fácil de crecer y proporciona un elevado rendimiento de células por unidad de tiempo y por volumen (ml) de cultivo.

La línea celular proporcionada por esta invención puede utilizarse como sistema de ensayo para la búsqueda e identificación (screening) de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 por diferentes estímulos.

La línea celular proporcionada por esta invención puede obtenerse fácilmente mediante procedimientos convencionales de Ingeniería Genética, por ejemplo, mediante un procedimiento que comprende (i) aislamiento de la secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2, (ii) el clonaje de dicha secuencia en un vector que contiene el gen testigo, en una posición en la que dicha secuencia promotora es capaz de dirigir la expresión de dicho gen testigo, y (iii) la transfección de una línea celular adecuada con dicho plásmido. En el Ejemplo 3 se describe detalladamente una forma concreta de obtener unos clones individuales de células Jurkat transformadas que expresan el gen testigo (luciferasa) de forma estable, denominados Jurkat-C3-1906LUC, Jurkat-F9-1906LUC y Jurkat-C7-1906LUC, en los que se determinó la actividad luciferasa basal y se comprobó que la expresión del gen testigo (luciferasa) se inducía en respuesta a los mismos estímulos que el promotor de la cox-2 tal y como se había establecido previamente con células transfectadas transitoriamente.

El sistema de ensayo (línea celular) proporcionado

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por esta invención ha sido validado previamente mediante la transfección transitoria de la construcción prom2-1906-LUC y el análisis de la actividad luciferasa bajo estímulos e inhibidores diferentes. Los resultados obtenidos se compararon con un control no inducible de una construcción similar en la que en lugar del promotor de la cox-2 se sitúa el promotor de la isoforma cox-1 y con el vector vacío pXP2. También se ha procedido a determinar, bajo los mismos estímulos el comportamiento del gen endógeno cox-2 mediante experimentos de RT-PCR en los que se analiza la expresión del mRNA. Como control no inducible se determinó el comportamiento del gen endógeno de la isoforma cox-1 y del gen no inducible de la glicerol-aldehido-fosfato deshidrogenasa (GAPDH). principales tratamientos fueron con activadores tales (10 ng/ml) y con como el éster de forbol PMA combinación de PMA y el Ionóforo de calcio A23187 [PMA+Ion] (1 μ M). El tratamiento con fármacos inhibidores la inducción por PMA+Ion se llevó a cabo dexametasona (1 μM), y con ciclosporina A (100 ng/ml).

El Ejemplo 2 incluye unos ensayos de validación del sistema de ensayo proporcionado por esta invención en transfección transitoria, así como de la expresión de los genes endógenos en células Jurkat. También se recogen en los Ejemplos 3 y 4 unos ensayos realizados con los clones estables obtenidos, con compuestos inductores e inhibidores de la inducción del promotor de la cox-2.

El sistema de ensayo proporcionado por esta invención es útil en la búsqueda e identificación (screening) de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 por

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diferentes estímulos. Este tipo de inhibidores selectivos cox-2 puede tener numerosas aplicaciones terapéuticas potenciales ya que las implicaciones derivadas de la inducción de la cox-2 no sólo inciden en la respuesta inflamatoria, sino también en procesos relacionados con la proliferación celular incontrolada y formación de tumores (por ejemplo, la aparición de adenomas, el cáncer de colon y el desarrollo de pólipos la angiogénesis, entre otros), con inmunosupresoras y con procesos neurodegenerativos como la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Por consiguiente, cabe suponer que los compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción transcripcional de la cox-2 puedan ser útiles como agentes antiinflamatorios, como compuestos capaces de atenuar la proliferación celular incontrolada y/o el proceso de tumorigénesis, como inmunosupresores o como potenciales fármacos con propiedades terapéuticas en la enfermedad de Alzheimer.

La invención también proporciona un método de ensayo búsqueda e identificación (screening) compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 por un estímulo apropiado (descrito en el Ejemplo 4) que comprende poner en línea celular proporcionada por contacto la invención (sistema de ensayo) con el compuesto a ensayar, es decir, con el compuesto cuya potencial actividad inhibidora selectiva inducción nivel de la a transcripcional de la cox-2 se desea ensayar, bajo condiciones que permiten la transcripción de la cox-2, y detectar, y/o medir, la señal indicativa de la expresión de actividad debida al gen testigo. Alternativamente, si

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se desea, el método de ensayo objeto de esta invención puede llevarse a cabo poniéndose en contacto la línea celular, el sistema de ensayo y un compuesto activador de la inducción transcripcional de la cox-2.

En el método de ensayo proporcionado por esta invención, la regulación de la expresión del gen de la cox-2 viene determinada por la actividad reguladora de su promotor, mientras que la medida de la actividad del gen testigo proporciona una medida indirecta de la actividad del promotor de la cox-2 en respuesta a diferentes agentes.

El método de ensayo para la búsqueda e identificación de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la cox-2 por un estímulo apropiado proporcionado por esta invención permite seleccionar compuestos que inhiben la producción de la cox-2 mediante un criterio que radica en la inhibición de la actividad inducible del promotor de la cox-2, con lo cual no se seleccionan aquellos compuestos que inhiban la actividad basal fisiológica de producción de la cox-2.

Los siguientes ejemplos sirven para ilustrar formas preferidas de realizar la invención sin que deban ser considerados como limitativos del alcance de la misma.

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EJEMPLO 1

Obtención de una construcción de DNA que comprende una secuencia del promotor de la cox-2 y el gen de la luciferasa

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1.1 Clonaje del promotor de la cox-2

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En primer lugar se procedió al clonaje de la secuencia promotora del gen humano de la cox-2, a partir de la secuencia descrita por Tazawa [Tazawa et al., 1994] representada en la Figura 1.

Se utilizó la técnica de la reacción en cadena de la polimerasa (PCR), usando oligonucleótidos cebadores o "primers" diseñados para la amplificación selectiva del fragmento de DNA correspondiente a la secuencia promotora de este gen. Como DNA molde se utilizó DNA genómico de la línea celular linfocítica humana Jurkat. Los oligonucleótidos utilizados fueron los identificados como SEC.ID.N°.: 1 y SEC.ID.No.: 2 [véase el apartado relativo a la LISTA DE SECUENCIAS].

Estos oligonucleótidos amplifican una secuencia que abarca desde el nucleótido -1796 al nucleótido +104 de la zona promotora del gen cox-2 (véase la Figura 1). Para la reacción de PCR se usó el Advantage cDNA PCR kit [Clontech] con 30 ciclos repetitivos de 45 segundos a 94°C y 3 minutos a 68°C en un termociclador PTC-200 [MJ Research].

1.2 Construcción del vector de expresión

Los fragmentos generados tras la amplificación fueron subclonados en el plásmido pXP2 [Nordeen, 1988] que contiene la secuencia codificante del gen de la luciferasa que se utilizará como gen testigo (véase la Figura 2). Los oligonucleótidos se diseñaron de tal forma que en el extremo 5' contienen una secuencia adicional de reconocimiento por enzimas de restricción. Tras la amplificación se generan extremos de doble cadena que contienen las dianas de restricción BamHI en el extremo

5' y BglII en el extremo 3'. El vector pXP2 contiene en el sitio múltiple de clonaje una diana BglII, que genera extremos compatibles tanto con extremos BglII como BamHI. Tras la digestión con los enzimas BglII y BamHI del inserto obtenido por PCR conteniendo la secuencia promotora, y del vector pXP2 con BglII, se procedió a la ligación de estas secuencias. De este modo se obtuvo el plásmido prom2-1906-LUC en el que la secuencia (-)1796-(+)104 del promotor de la cox-2 se sitúa por delante del gen de la luciferasa, dirigiendo su expresión. Esta construcción se secuenció para comprobar la fidelidad de la secuencia del promotor y verificar el sitio de clonaje.

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Ejemplo 2

Experimentos de análisis de la regulación de la actividad del promotor de la cox-2 mediante experimentos de RT-PCR y de transfección transitoria de la construcción prom2-1906-LUC en la línea celular Jurkat

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Con el fin de estudiar la regulación de la expresión del gen cox-2 endógeno en la línea celular Jurkat se procedió al análisis de la expresión de su mRNA mediante experimentos de RT-PCR. A su vez, con el fin de validar la construcción prom2-1906-LUC y comprobar que la regulación del promotor clonado se corresponde con la esperada, se realizaron experimentos de transfección transitoria de la construcción prom2-1906-LUC utilizando la línea celular Jurkat. En ambos experimentos las células se trataron con compuestos estimuladores e inhibidores de la inducción del promotor de cox-2.

El tratamiento con compuestos activadores se llevó a cabo utilizando el éster de forbol PMA (Phorbol 12-Myristate 13-Acetate) (10 ng/ml) (Sigma) y la combinación de PMA y el ionóforo de Calcio A23187 (1 μ M) (Sigma), en adelante PMA+Ion.

El tratamiento con fármacos inhibidores de la inducción por PMA+Ion se llevó a cabo con ciclosporina A (CsA) (100 ng/ml), o el glucocorticoide sintético Dexametasona (Dex) $(1\mu M)$ (Sigma).

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2.1 <u>Regulación de la expresión del mRNA de cox-2</u> en células Jurkat

Los resultados obtenidos del análisis por RT-PCR de la expresión del mRNA de cox-2 en células Jurkat se muestran en la Figura 3, donde puede observarse lo siguiente:

- a) el tratamiento con PMA (10 ng/ml) produce un ligero incremento de la expresión del mRNA de cox-2, mientras que el tratamiento combinado con PMA+Ion produce el mayor aumento en la expresión de este gen a nivel transcripcional [Figura 3(A)]; y
- b) la inhibición por CsA (100 ng/ml) de la inducción transcripcional de cox-2 [Figura 3(B)].

Como control en ambos casos se muestra el resultado obtenido para los mRNAs no inducibles de la isoforma cox1 y de la glicerol aldehído fosfato deshidrogenasa (GAPDH).

2.2 <u>Evaluación de la actividad luciferasa bajo</u> diferentes estímulos

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Se ha analizado la actividad luciferasa en células

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Jurkat transfectadas transitoriamente con la construcción prom2-1906-LUC utilizando el agente Lipofectina [Life Technologies]. Las células fueron estimuladas con PMA (10 ng/m) (Sigma) y con la combinación PMA+Ion (1 μ M) (Sigma).

Como control no inducible se utilizó una construcción similar en la que en lugar del promotor de la cox-2 se situó el promotor de la isoforma cox-1 [prom1-898-LUC] y con el vector vacío pXP2.

La actividad luciferasa se determinó utilizando el kit "Luciferase Assay System" [Promega], con $1x10^{\circ}$ células que se lisaron en 50 μ l de tampón de lisis. En los extractos obtenidos se midió la emisión de luz producida con un luminómetro Monolight 2010 [Analytical Luminiscence Laboratory] con un sistema de inyección automática de 100 μ l de reactivo.

Los resultados obtenidos se muestran en la Figura 4. Como puede apreciarse en dicha figura, los resultados obtenidos en este ensayo son comparables a los obtenidos en el análisis del mRNA de cox-2 [Ejemplo 2.1], es decir, el tratamiento con PMA+Ion produce el mayor aumento en el número de veces de inducción de la actividad luciferasa (aproximadamente 12 veces la basal). Estos datos demuestran que la secuencia promotora clonada se comporta de forma similar al gen endógeno. Como control se comprueba que tanto la construcción prom1-898-LUC como el plásmido vacío pXP2 no son inducibles.

2.3 <u>Evaluación de la actividad luciferasa</u> <u>bajo diferentes inhibidores</u>

Se ha analizado la inhibición de la estimulación por

PMA (10 ng/m) (Sigma) o PMA+Ion (1 μ M) (Sigma) sobre la actividad luciferasa en células Jurkat transfectadas transitoriamente con la construcción prom2-1906-LUC, mediante el empleo del fármaco inmunosupresor ciclosporina A (CsA) (100 ng/ml). Los resultados obtenidos se muestran en la Figura 5 donde se pone de manifiesto que el tratamiento con CsA (100 ng/ml) disminuye la estimulación del promotor de la cox-2 en respuesta a PMA+Ion hasta valores similares a los basales.

Asimismo, se ha analizado la inhibición de la estimulación por PMA+Ion (1 μ M) (Sigma) sobre la actividad luciferasa en células Jurkat transfectadas transitoriamente con la construcción prom2-1906 mediante el glucocorticoide dexametasona (1 μ M) (Sigma). Los resultados obtenidos se muestran en la Figura 6 donde se pone de manifiesto que el tratamiento con dexametasona (1 μ M) (Dex) disminuye la estimulación del promotor de cox-2 en respuesta a PMA+Ion.

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Ejemplo 3

Obtención de una línea celular que expresa de forma estable una construcción de DNA que comprende una secuencia promotora de cox-2 y el gen de la luciferasa.

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Para la creación de la línea celular que expresa de forma estable la construcción prom2-1906-LUC, se cotransfectaron células Jurkat con el vector prom2-1906-LUC y un vector denominado pcDNA3.1/Hygro (Invitrogen) que contiene el gen de resistencia a la higromicina. La transfección se realizó mediante la técnica de

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electroporación en cubetas de 0.4 cm (BioRad) con 15×10^6 células en 0,5 ml de medio completo [medio RPMI suplementado con 10% de suero fetal, L-Glutamina 2 mM y una mezcla de antibióticos] (Todos estos productos fueron adquiridos a Life Technologies). Las células se incubaron en hielo durante 10 minutos con 25 µg del plásmido prom2-1906-LUC y 5 μ g del vector pCDNA3.1./Hygro. Tras este periodo, las células se electroporaron en un aparato Gene Pulser II (BioRad) a 1.500 μ Faradios de capacitancia y 280 Voltios de corriente. A continuación, las células se incubaron en hielo durante 10 minutos antes de añadir 10 ml de medio completo. Las células se cultivaron en este medio en frascos de cultivo (Nunc) de 75 cm² durante 48 horas en un incubador de células a 37°C, con una humedad del 95% y 5% de CO2. En este momento se cambió el medio por medio completo sin antibióticos al que se añadió higromicina (Boehringer Mannheim) a una concentración de 200 μg/ml. Las células se cultivaron en este medio durante 30 días con sucesivos cambios de medio. Durante este periodo se selecciona la población resistente que sobrevive al tratamiento con el antibiótico selectivo, es decir los transfectantes estables para el gen resistencia al antibiótico higromicina. En esta población se analizó la expresión del gen de la luciferasa con el fin de determinar la presencia de transfectantes estables para el plásmido prom2-1906-LUC. Para ello, 1x106 células se lisaron en 50 μ l de tampón de lisis (Promega) y con los extractos obtenidos se procedió a determinar la actividad luciferasa con los reactivos contenidos en el kit de "Luciferase Assay System" [Promega]. La medición de la emisión de luz producida se determinó en un

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luminómetro MonoLight 2010 (Analytical Luminiscence Laboratory) con un sistema de inyección automática de 100 ul de reactivo.

De esta población policional (Jurkat-pool-1906LUC) se realizó una dilución límite en placas de 96 pocillos en medio completo con higromicina con el fin de obtener clones individuales que expresaran el gen de luciferasa de forma estable. Estos clones se crecieron hasta obtener al menos 1x106 células con las que realizar la medición de la actividad luciferasa tal como se ha descrito anteriormente. De esta forma se obtuvieron tres individuales denominados Jurkat-C3-1906LUC, clones Jurkat-F9-1906LUC y Jurkat-C7-1906LUC. En estos clones se determinó la actividad luciferasa basal en RLUs (unidades relativas de luminiscencia) y se comprobó que expresión del testigo luciferasa se inducía en respuesta a los mismos estímulos que el promotor de cox-2 tal y se había establecido previamente con células transfectadas de forma transitoria (véase la Figura 7). En los tres clones, los valores basales de actividad luciferasa se incrementan de 3 a 6 veces con un tratamiento de 6 horas con el éster de forbol PMA y hasta 10 - 20 veces con un tratamiento combinado de PMA+Ion, de forma similar a los resultados obtenidos en las transfecciones transitorias.

Ejemplo 4

Establecimiento de un sistema de ensayo de compuestos que regulan la expresión del gen cox-2 en los clones de la línea celular que expresa de forma estable una construcción de DNA que comprende una secuencia promotora de cox-2 y el gen de la luciferasa.

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Los clones se cultivaron en placas de 96 pocillos a una densidad de 1×10^5 células en 200 μ l de medio RPMI suplementado con 2% de suero fetal, L-Glutamina 2 mM y una mezcla de antibióticos. Las células se trataron durante 6 horas con diferentes concentraciones de los compuestos cuya actividad se pretende ensayar. En el caso del ensayo de la actividad de estos compuestos sobre la inducción de la actividad del promotor de cox-2, las células se trataron con PMA+Ion durante 5 horas, tras 1 hora de pretratamiento con el compuesto a ensayar. Tras este periodo las células se lisaron en 50 μ l de tampón de lisis y se determinó su actividad luciferasa utilizando 20 μ l en un luminómetro tal y como se describió en el Ejemplo 2.2. A continuación se muestran algunos resultados obtenidos con compuestos previamente descritos como inhibidores de la estimulación del promotor de cox-2.

La Figura 8 muestra los resultados obtenidos con el compuesto ciclosporina A (CsA) el cual produce una inhibición de la estimulación obtenida con PMA+Ion en los clones estables de Jurkat, de forma similar a lo previamente descrito (Iñiguez et al., 1998), y a lo observado en las transfecciones transitorias ilustradas en el Ejemplo 2.3.

La Figura 9 muestra los resultados obtenidos con el compuesto Dexametasona (Dex), que, como glucocorticoide y anti-inflamatorio, produce una inhibición de la estimulación obtenida con PMA+Ion en los clones estables de Jurkat, como corresponde a lo ya descrito (Smith and DeWitt, 1996) y a lo observado previamente en las transfecciones transitorias del Ejemplo 2.3.

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La Figura 10 muestra los resultados obtenidos con el compuesto Resveratrol (Res), descrito recientemente como inhibidor de la estimulación por PMA del gen cox-2 (Subbaramiah, et al., 1998). Este compuesto produce una inhibición de la estimulación obtenida con PMA+Ion en los clones estables de Jurkat.

De esta forma queda demostrada la validez del sistema de ensayo por el comportamiento similar de los clones obtenidos, de las transfecciones transitorias y de los resultados obtenidos con el mRNA endógeno. Con el uso de compuestos cuya actividad sobre el promotor de cox-2 es conocida, ya sean estimuladores o inhibidores, queda establecido que es posible detectar compuestos no descritos previamente que regulen tanto positivamente como negativamente la expresión basal o inducida del gen cox-2 con el sistema de ensayo desarrollado en la presente invención.

DEPOSITO DEL MATERIAL BIOLÓGICO

Una muestra de una línea celular Jurkat, denominada J-1906-F9, que expresa de forma estable una construcción de DNA que comprende una secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 y el gen de la luciferasa, ha sido depositada en la European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC) [Salisbury, R. Unido] el 24 de marzo de 1999 y ha recibido el número de acceso ECACC 99032405.

Una muestra del plásmido prom2-1906-LUC, insertado en *Escherichia coli* DH5, denominada DH5 prom2-1906-LUC, ha sido depositada en la Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo (CECT) [Burjassot, Valencia] el 24 de marzo de 1999 y ha recibido el número de acceso CECT 5145.

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REIVINDICACIONES

1. Una construcción de DNA que comprende la totalidad o parte de una secuencia promotora del gen de la ciclooxigenasa 2 (cox-2) y un gen testigo, operativamente unidos entre sí, de manera que dicha secuencia promotora del gen de la cox-2 dirige la expresión de dicho gen testigo en respuesta a un estímulo adecuado.

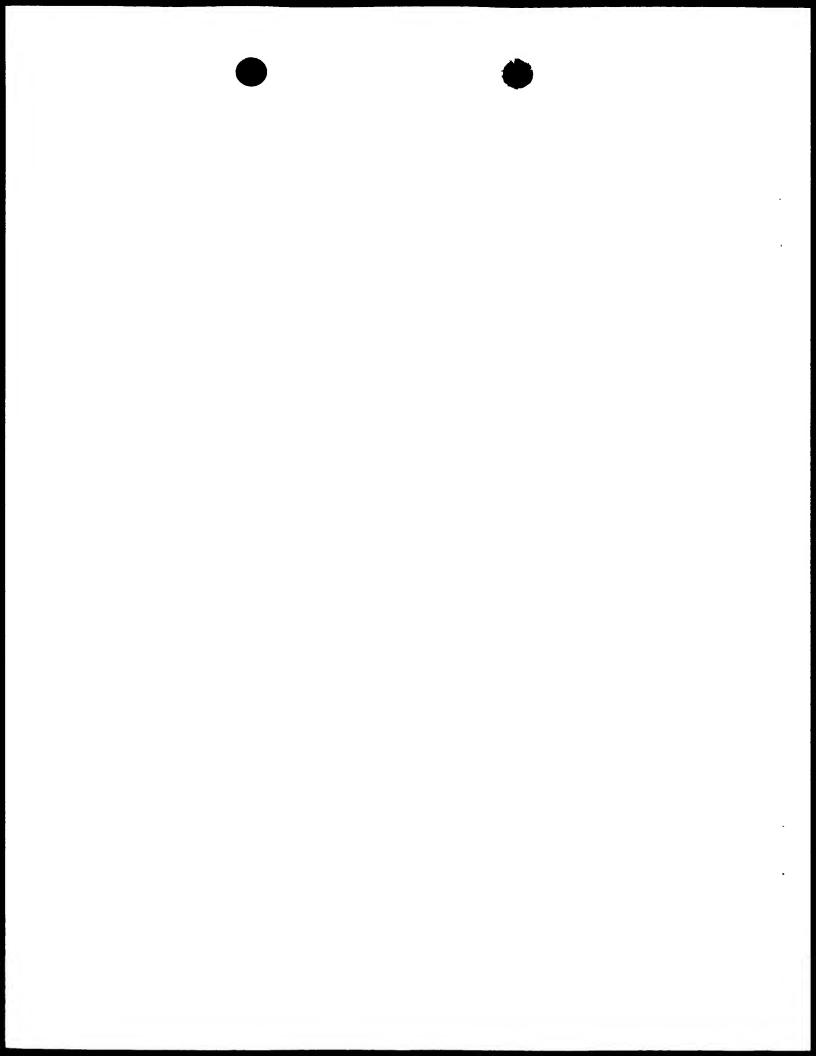
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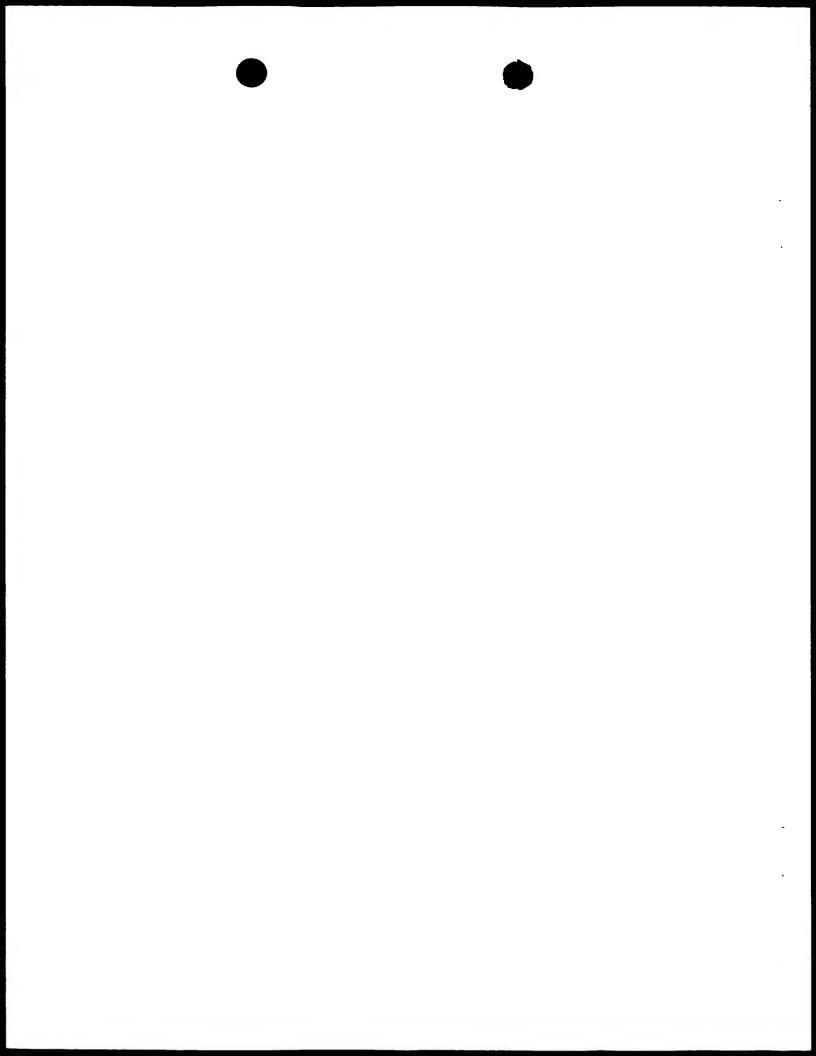
- 2. Construcción según la reivindicación 1, en la que dicha secuencia promotora del gen cox-2 procede del gen humano de la cox-2.
- 3. Construcción según la reivindicación 2, en la que dicha secuencia promotora del gen cox-2 está constituida por la secuencia comprendida entre el nucleótido (-)1796 y el nucleótido (+)104 del promotor de la cox-2 humana.
- 4. Construcción según la reivindicación 1, en la que dicho gen testigo se selecciona entre el gen de la luciferasa, el gen de la cloranfenicol acetil transferasa y el gen de la beta galactosidasa.
- 25 5. Un vector que comprende una construcción de DNA según cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1 a 4.
 - 6. Una línea celular que comprende una construcción según cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 1 a 4 o transformada con un vector según la reivindicación 5.

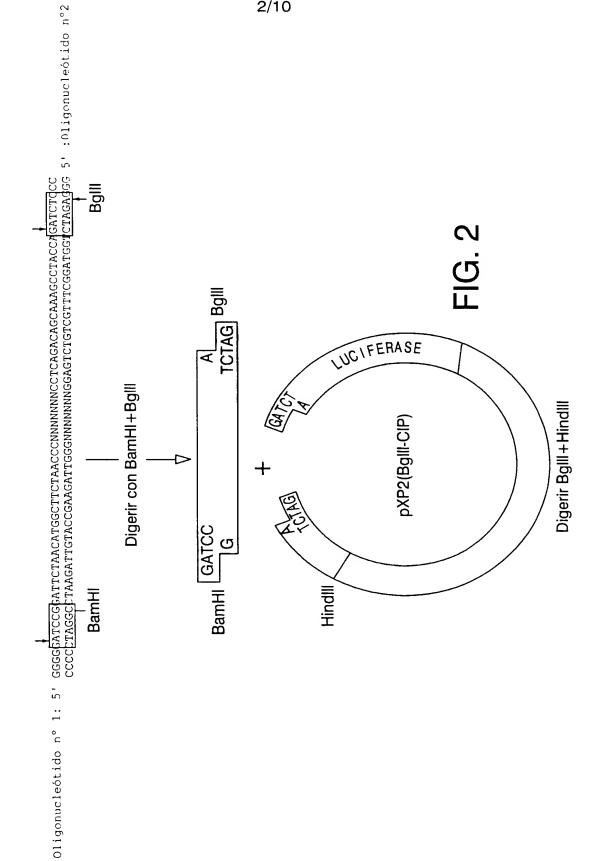
- 7. Una línea celular según la reivindicación 6, en la que dicha línea celular deriva de una línea celular de origen humano.
- 8. Una línea celular según la reivindicación 7, en 5 la que dicha línea celular de origen humano es una línea de células Jurkat.
- 9. Método de ensayo para la búsqueda de compuestos inhibidores selectivos de inducción a la transcripcional de la ciclooxigenasa-2 por un estímulo apropiado, que comprende poner en contacto una línea celular según cualquiera de las reivindicaciones 6 a 8, con un compuesto cuya potencial actividad inhibidora selectiva de la inducción a nivel transcripcional de la 15 cox-2 se desea ensayar, bajo condiciones que permiten la transcripción de la cox-2, y detectar, y/o medir, la señal indicativa de la expresión de actividad debida al gen testigo.

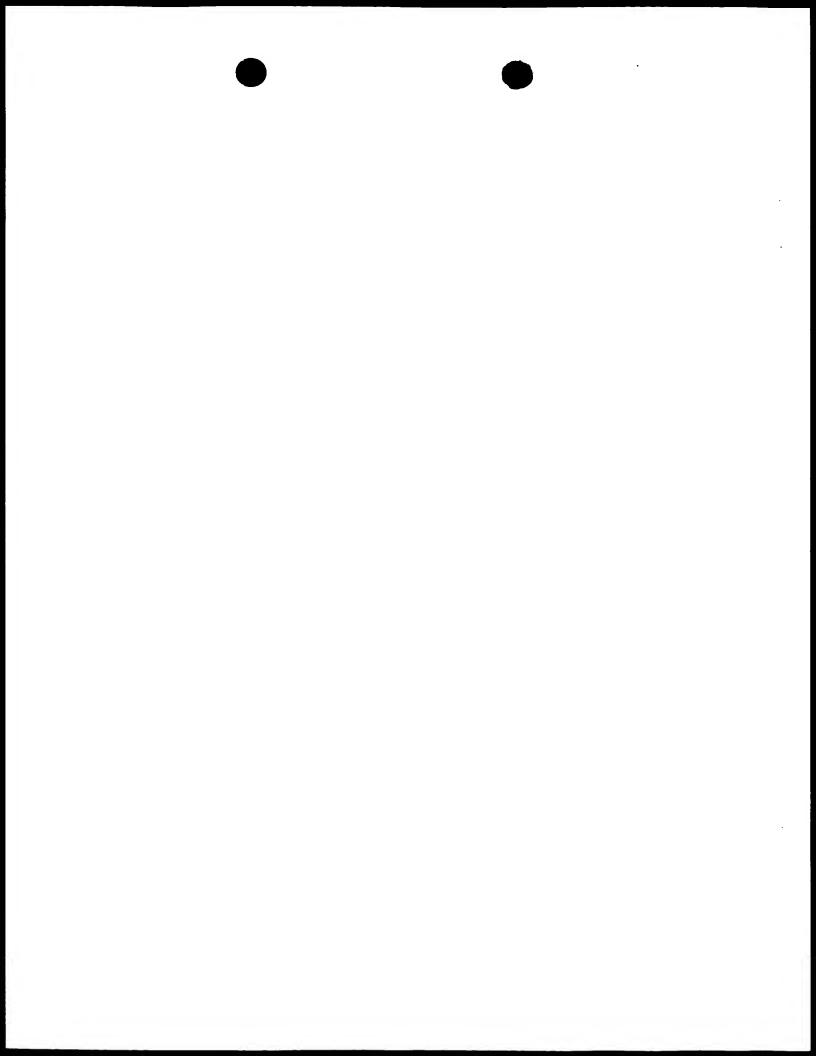


-1841 GAATTCAGGATTGTAATGTAAAATTTTAGTACTCTCTCACAGTATGGATTCTAACATGGCTTCTAACCCAAACTAACATTAGTAGCTCTAACTATAAACT
Oligonucleotido nº 1
-1741 TCAAATTTCAGTAGATGCAACCTACTCCTTTAAAATGAAACAGAAGATTGAAATTATTAAATTATCAAAAAGAAAATGATCCACGCTCTTAGTTGAAATT
-1641 TCATGTAAGATTCCATGCAATAAATAGGAGTGCCATAAATGGAATGATGAAATATGACTAGAGGAGGAGAAAGGCTTCCTAGATGAGATGGAATTTTAGT
-1541 CATCCGTGTCTCATGAAGAATCAGATGTGTACACTAAGCAAAACAGTTAAAAAAAA
-1441 CTACAAATTGAGGTACCTGGTGTAGTTTTATTTCAGGTTTTATGCTGTCATTTTCCTGTAATGCTAAGGACTTAGGACATAACTGAATTTTCTATTTTCC
-1341 ACTTCTTTTCTGGTGTGTGTGTATATATATATATATATAT
-1241 GCACTACCCATGATAGATGTTAAACAAAAGCAAAAGTGAAATTCCAACTGTTAAAATCTCCCTTCCATCTAATTAAT
-1141 ACGAGAATAGAAAATTAGCCCCAATAAGCCCAGGCAACTGAAAAGTAAATGCTATGTTGTACTTTGATCCATGGTCACAACTCATAATCTTGGAAAAGTG
-1041 GACAGAAAAGACAAAAGAGTGAACTTTAAAACTCGAATTTATTT
-941 AAATGCCTTAAGGCATACGTTTTGGACATTTAGCGTCCCTGCAAATTCTGGCCATCCCGCTTCCTTTGTCCATCAGAAGGCAGGAAACTTTATATTGGT
- 841 GACCCGTGGAGCTCACATTAACTATTTACAGGGTAACTGCTTAGGACCAGTATTATGAGGAGGATTTACCTTTCCCGCCTCTCTTTCCAAGAAACAAGGA
-741 GGGGGTGAAGGTACGGAGAACAGTATTTCTTCTGTTGAAAGCAACTTAGCTACAAAGATAAATTACAGCTATGTACACTGAAGGTAGCTATTTCATTCCA
-641 CAAAATAAGAGTTTTTTAAAAAGCTATGTATGTATGTCCTGCATATAGAGCAGATATACAGCCTATTAAGCGTCGTCACTAAAACATAAAACATGTCAGC
-541 CTTTCTTAACCTTACTCGCCCCAGTCTGTCCCGACGTGACTTCCTCGACCCTCTAAAGACGTACAGACCAGACACGGCGGCGGCGGGGGGAGAGGGGGATT
-441 CCCTGCGCCCCGGACCTCAGGGCCGCTCAGATTCCTGGAGAGGAAGCCAAGTGTCCTTCTGCCCTCCCCGGGTATCCCATCCAAGGCGATCAGTCCAGA
-341 ACTGGCTCTCGGAAGCGCTCGGGCAAAGACTGCGAAGAAGAAAAGACATCTGGCGGAAACCTGTGCGCCTGGGGCGGTGGAACTCGGGGAGAGAGA
-241 GGATCAGACAGGAGAGTGGGGACTACCCCCTCTGCTCCCAAATTGGGGCAGCTTCCTGGGTTTCCGATTTTCTCATTTCCGTGGGTAAAAAACCCTGCCC
-141 CCACCGGGCTTACGCAATTTTTTTAAGGGGAGGGGAGAGGGAAAAATTTGTGGGGGG
-41 TTTCAGTCTTATAAAAAGGAAGGTTCTCTCGGTTAGCGACCAATTGTCATACGACTTGCAGTGAGCGTCAGGAGCACGTCCAGGAACTCCTCAGCAGCG
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Oligonucleótido nº 2

FIG. 1







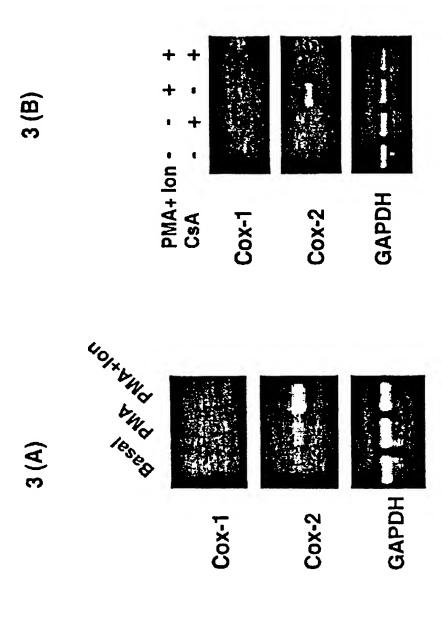
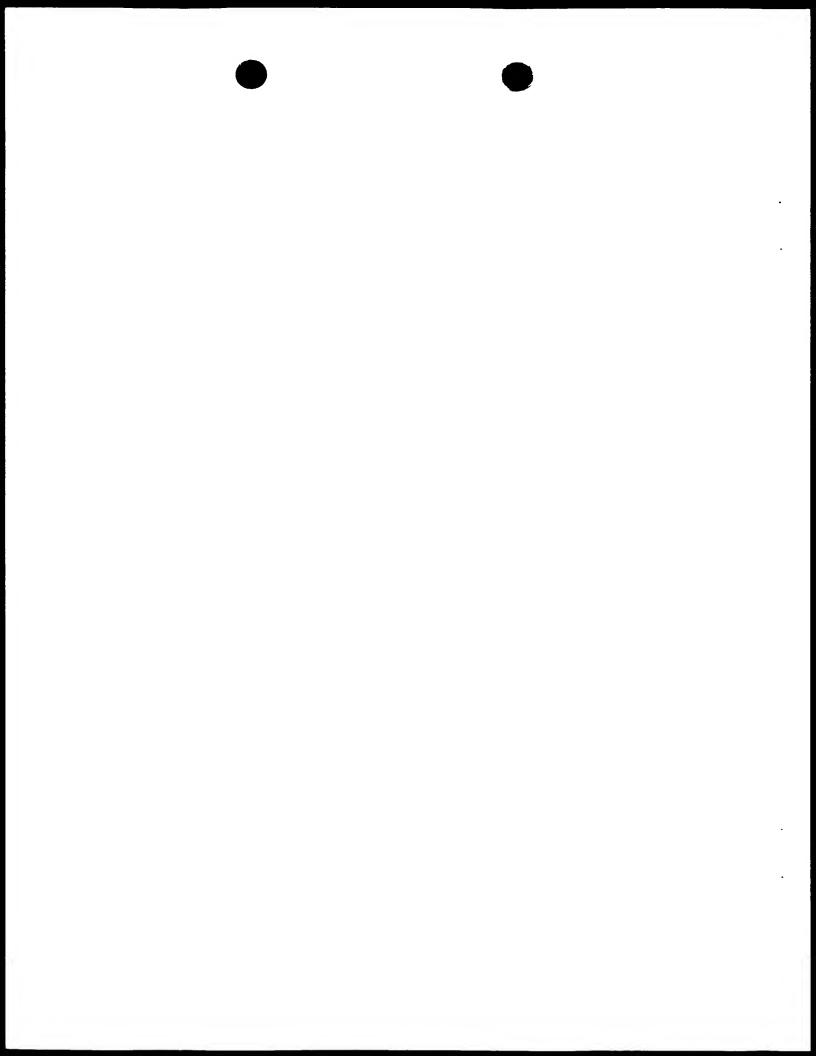


FIG. 3



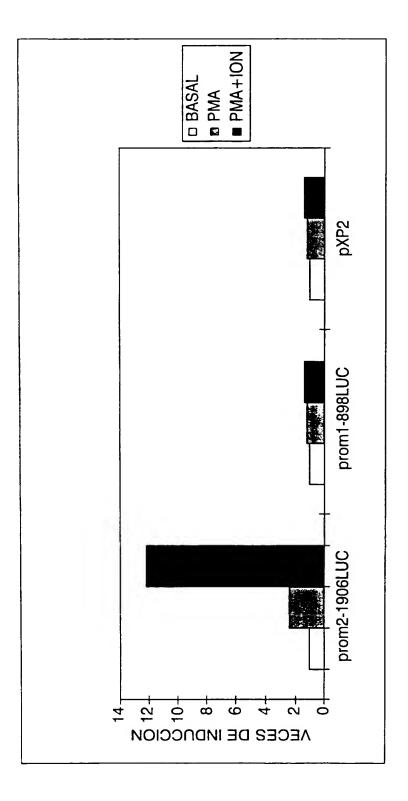
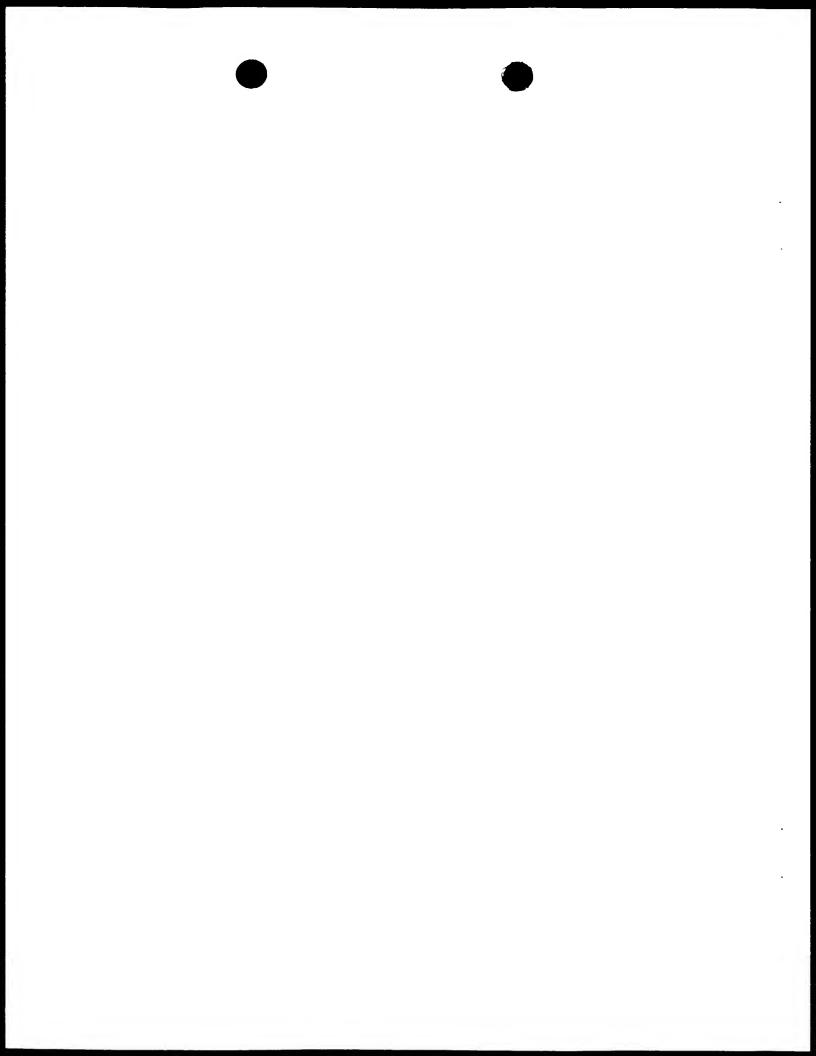


FIG. 4



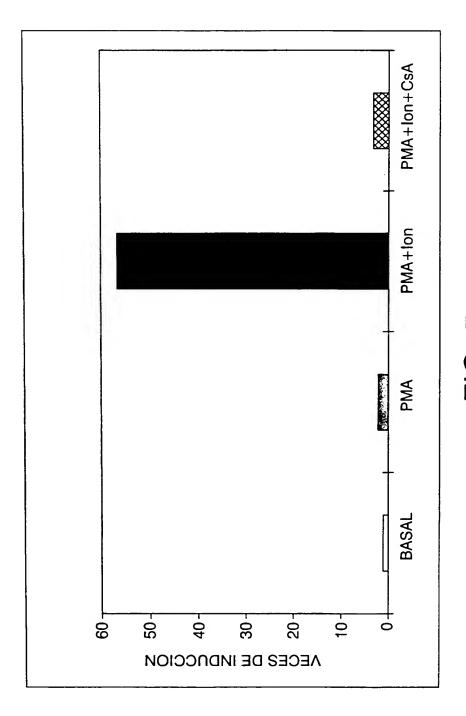
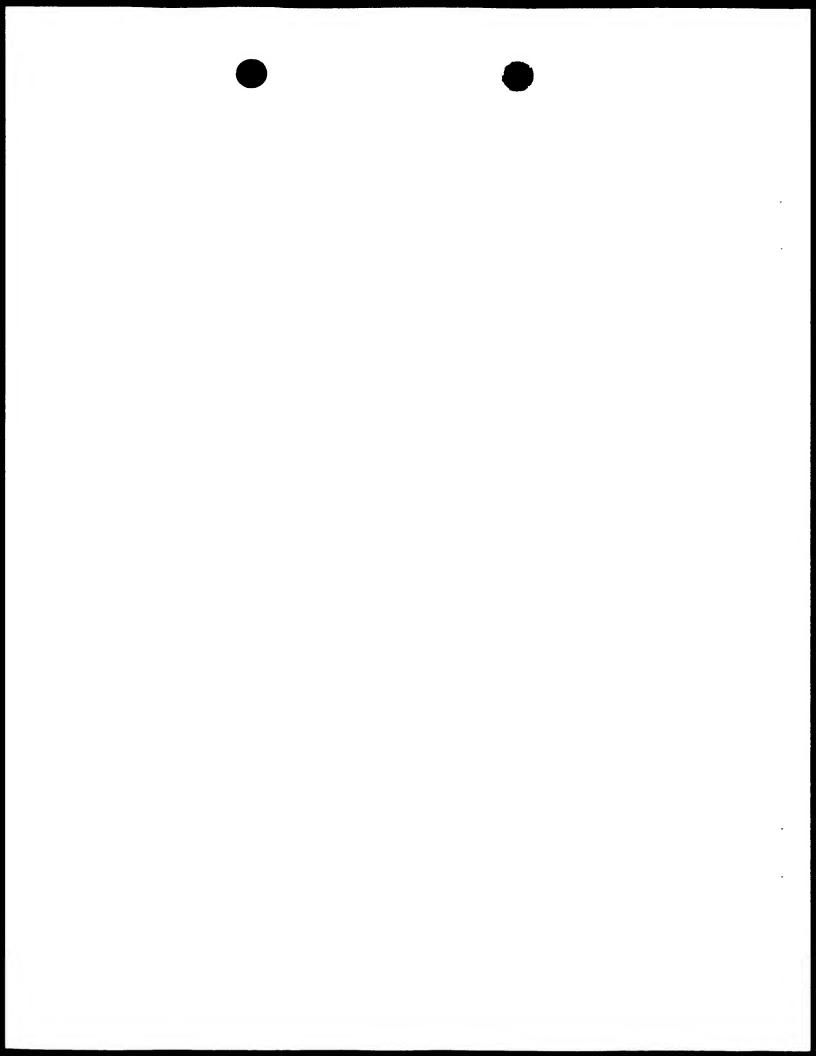
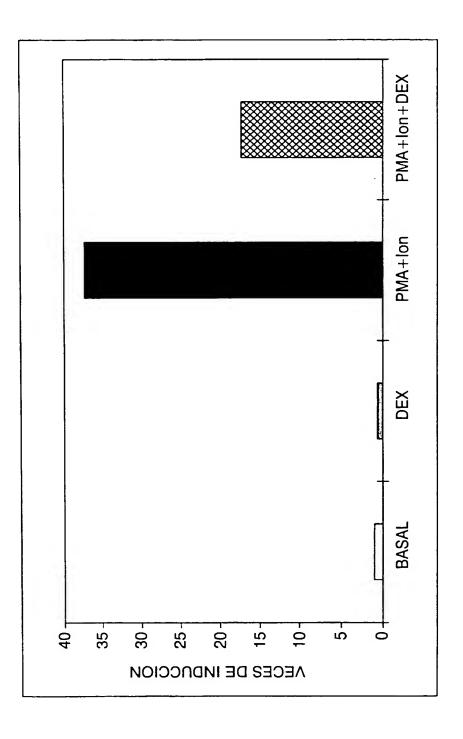


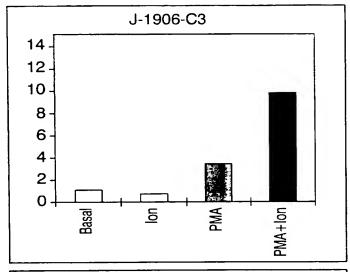
FIG. 5

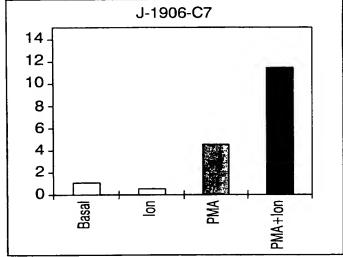




F.G. 6







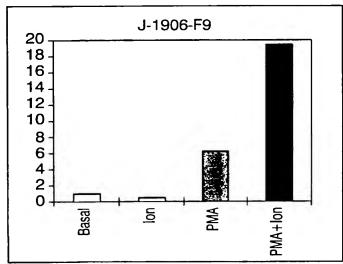
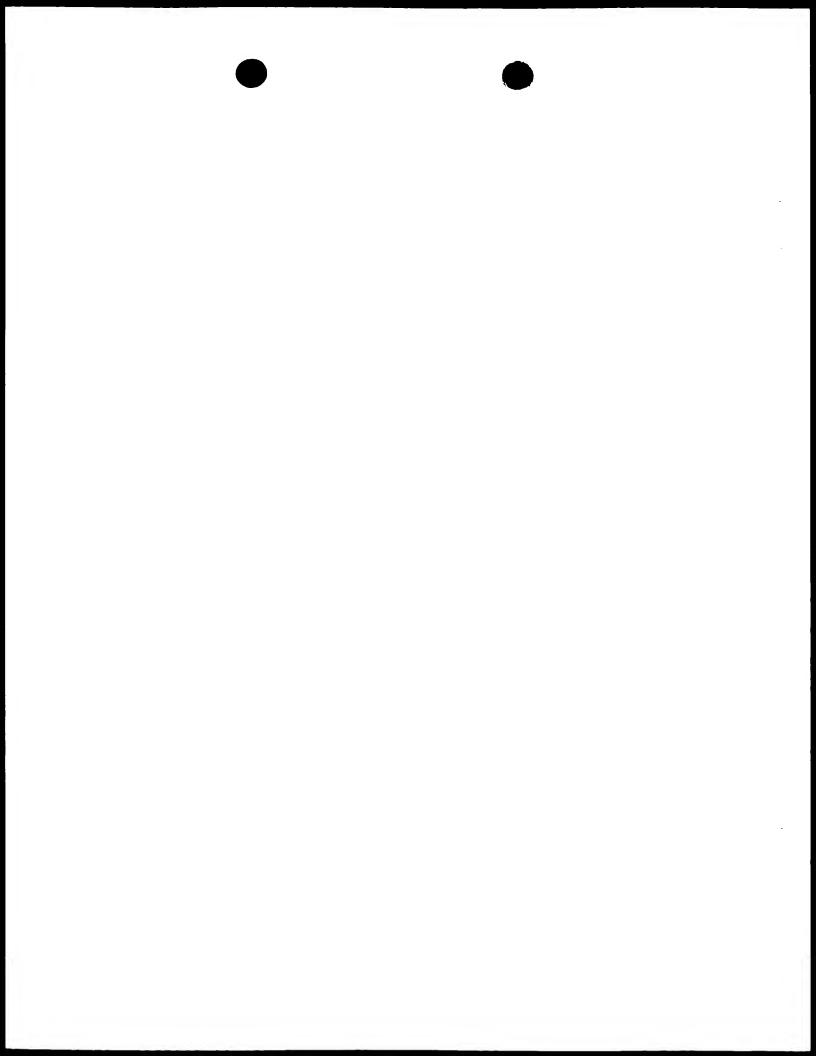
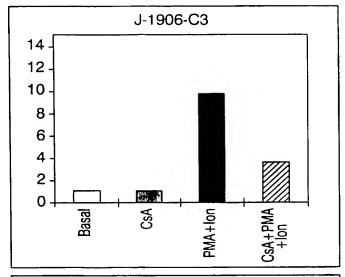
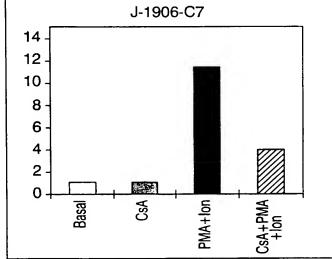


FIG. 7







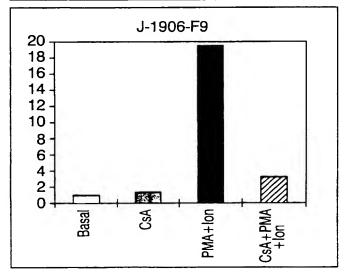
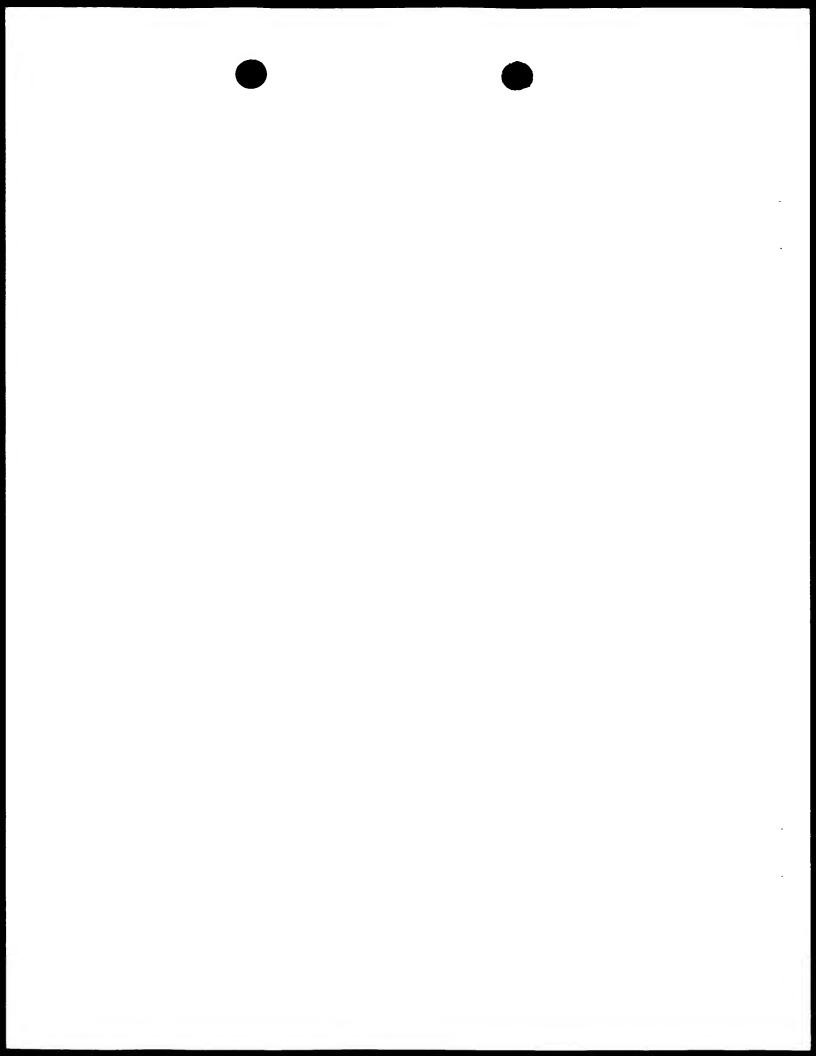
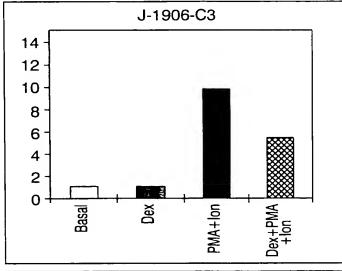
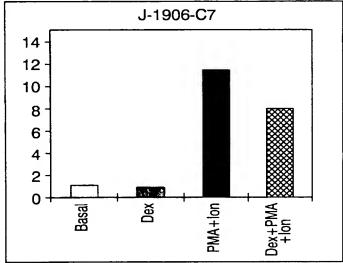


FIG. 8







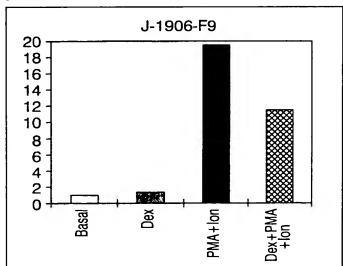
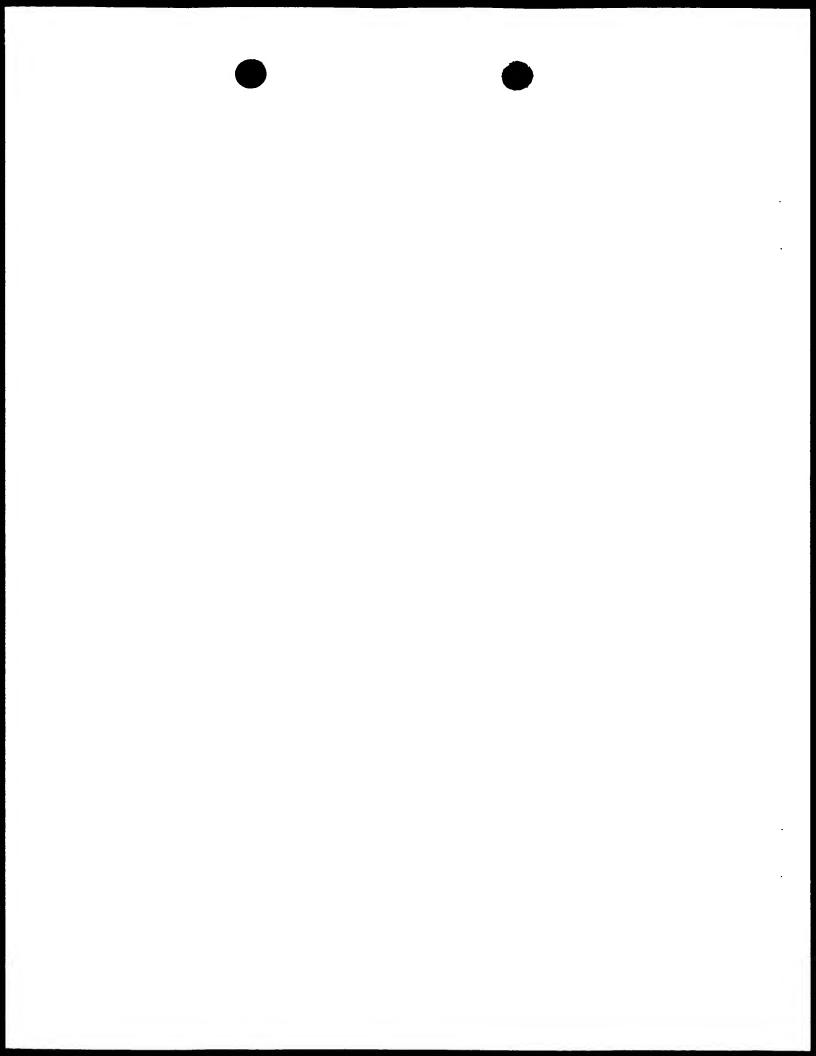
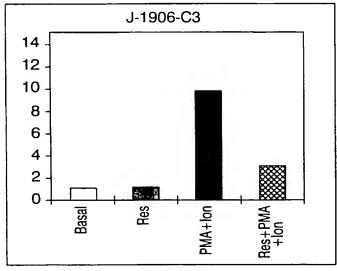
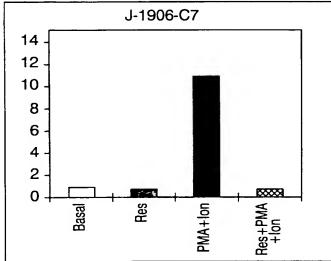


FIG. 9







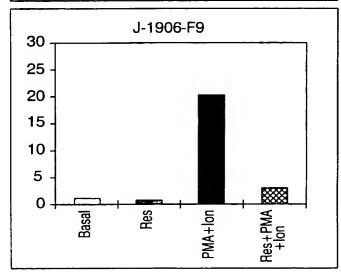
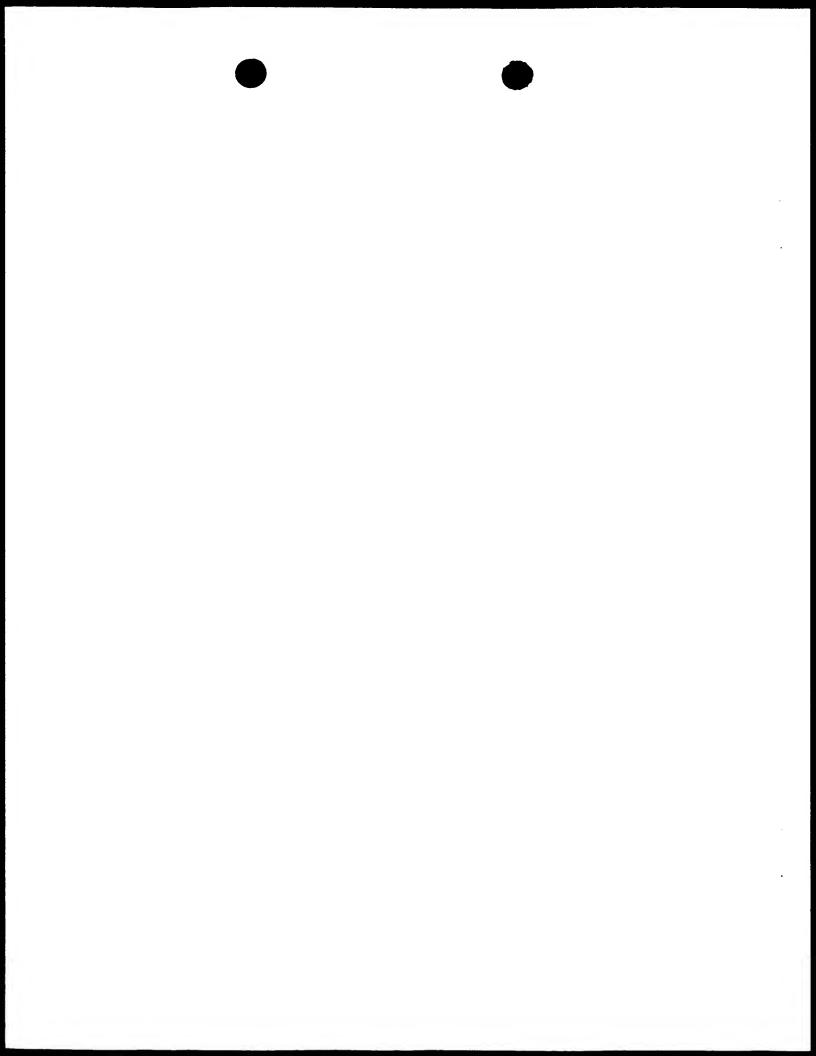


FIG. 10

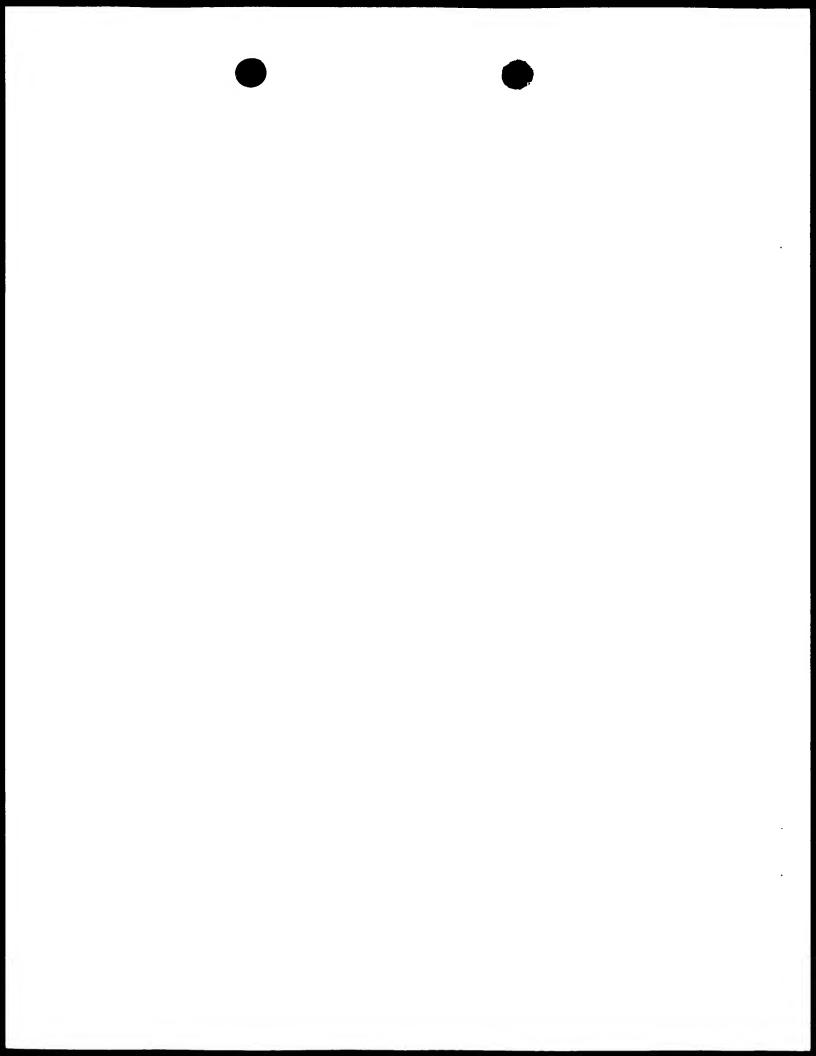


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LISTA DE SECUENCIAS

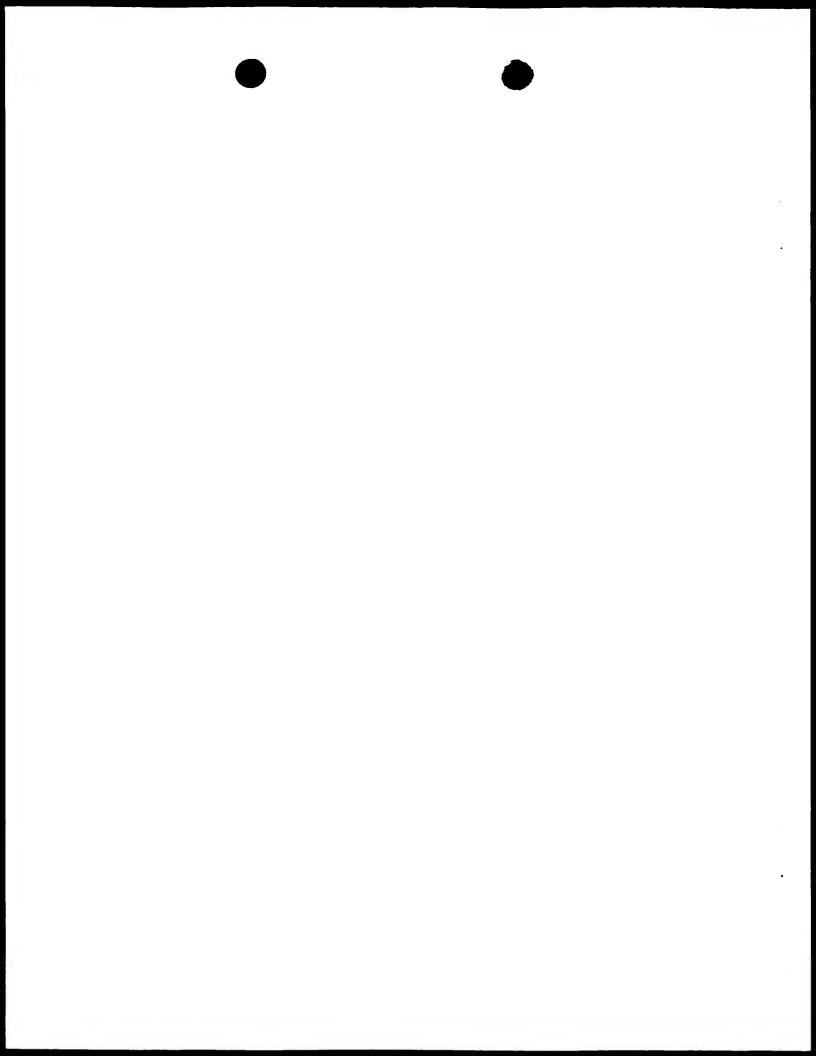
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	(i) SOLICITANTE:
5	(A) NOMBRE: Laboratorios del Dr. Esteve, S.A.
	(B) DIRECCION: Avda. Mare de Deu de Montserrat,
	221
	(C) CIUDAD: Barcelona
	(E) PAIS: España
0	(F) CODIGO POSTAL: 08041
	(G) TELEFONO: 93 446 60 00
	(H) TELEFAX: 93 450 32 02
	(ii) TITULO DE LA INVENCION:
5	
	LINEA CELULAR QUE COMPRENDE EL PROMOTOR DE LA
	CICLOOXIGENASA-2 (COX-2) Y UN GEN TESTIGO, Y SU
	EMPLEO EN LA BÚSQUEDA DE INHIBIDORES SELECTIVOS DE
	LA INDUCCIÓN TRANSCRIPCIONAL DE COX-2
20	
	(iii) NUMERO DE SECUENCIAS: 2
	(iv) FORMA LEGIBLE POR ORDENADOR:
	(A) MEDIO: Diskete
25	(B) ORDENADOR: IBM PC compatible
	(C) SISTEMA OPERATIVO: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
	(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version
	#1.30 (EPO)
30	(2) INFORMACION DE LA SECUENCIA IDENTIFICADA N°

[SEC.ID.N°]: 1:



2

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	(B) TIPO: ácido nucleico
	(C) N° DE CADENAS: monocatenaria
5	(D) TOPOLOGIA: lineal
	(ii) TIPO DE MOLECULA: DNA
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	(B) TIPO: ácido nucleico
	(C) N° DE CADENAS: monocatenaria
15	(D) TOPOLOGIA: lineal
	(ii) TIPO DE MOLECULA: DNA
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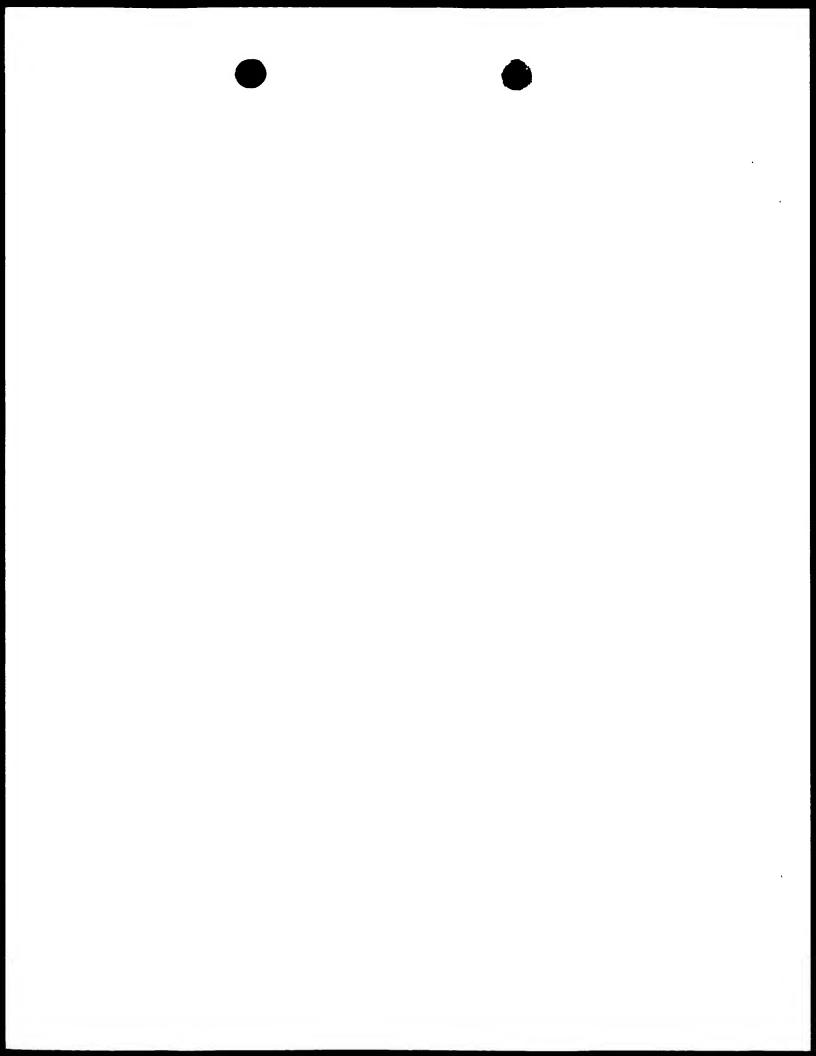


PCT

Original (para PRESENTACION) - impreso el 05.07.2000 02:10:05 PM

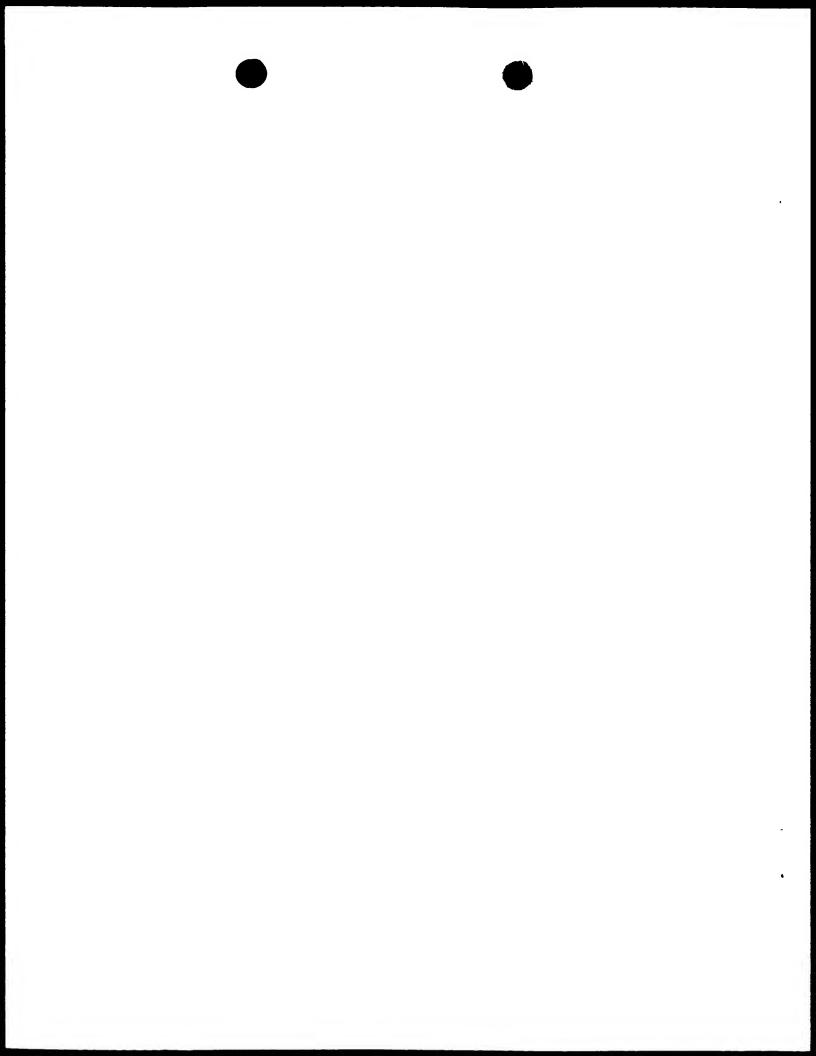
2000186

0-1	Formulario - PCT/RO/134 (EASY) Indicaciones relativas al Depósito de Microorganismo(s) u otro Material Biológico (Regla 13bis del PCT)	
0-1-1	Preparado usando	PCT-EASY Version 2.90 (actualizado el 10.05.2000)
0-2	Solicitud internacional No	(accualizado el 10.05.2000)
0-2	Solicitud Internacional No	PCT/ E S 00 / 00 2 4 5
0-3	Referencia al expediente del solicitante o del mandatario	2000186
1	Las indicaciones hechas a	
,	continuación se refieren al(los) microorganismo(s) u otro material biológico depositado mencionado en la descripción en:	
1-1	página	21
1-2	linea	11-24
1-3	Identificación del depósito	
1-3-1	Nombre de la institución de depósito	European Collection of Cell Cultures
1-3-2	Dirección de la institución depositaria	Vaccine Research and Production
		Laboratory, Public Health Laboratory
		Service, Centre for Applied Microbiology
		and Research, Porton Down, Salisbury,
		→
1-3-3	Fecha de depósito	Wiltshire SP4 0JG, United Kingdom
1-3-4	Número de orden	24 Marzo 1999 (24.03.1999)
1-4	Indicaciones adicionales	ECACC 99032405
1-5		Depósito de Linea Celular JURKAT
1-5	Las indicaciones son dadas para los siguientes Estados designados	todos los Estados designados
1-6	Suministro separado de indicaciones	NINGUNA
	Estas indicaciones serán presentadas a la Oficina Internacional posteriormente	
2	Las indicaciones hechas a continuación se refieren al(los) microorganismo(s) u otro material biológico depositado mencionado en la descripción en:	
2-1	página	21
2-2	linea	11-24
2-3	Identificación del depósito	
2-3-1	Nombre de la institución de depósito	Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo
2-3-2	Dirección de la institución depositaria	Universidad de Valencia, Edificio de
		Investigación, Campus de Burjasot, 46100
		Burjasot (Valencia), Spain
2-3-3	Fecha de depósito	24 Marzo 1999 (24.03.1999)
2-3-4	Número de orden	CECT 5145
2-4	Indicaciones adicionales	Depósito del Plásmido PROM2-1906-LUC
2-5	Las indicaciones son dadas para los siguientes Estados designados	todos los Estados designados





PCT			2000186
	Original (para PRE	SENTACION) - impreso el 05.07.2000 02:10:05 PM	
2-6	Suministro separado de indicaciones	NINGUNA	
	Estas indicaciones serán presentadas a la Oficina Internacional posteriormente		
	PARA USO DE	LA OFICINA RECEPTORA UNICAMENTE	
0-4	Este formulario fue recibido con la solicitud internacional: (si o no)	S,'	
0-4-1	Funcionario autorizado	Dolores Bautista	- · · · <u>-</u>
	PARA USO DE LA	A OFICINA INTERNACIONAL UNICAMENTE	
0-5	Este formulario fue recibido por la Oficina Internacional el:		***************************************
0-5-1	Funcionario autorizado		
		}	



Internal application No. PCT 30'00245

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7: C12Q 1/68, C12N 15-62

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7: C12Q, C12N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

CIBEPAT, EPODOC, WPI, EMBASE, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, CA, STRAND

C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	WO 9837235 A (CORNELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.)	
X	27 August 1998 (27.08.98) page 4, line 35 – page 5, line 15; page 6, line 9- page 7, line 2: page 8, line 3 –	1-9
V	page 9, line 3; example 1; claims 1-9	1-9
Y	the whole document	1-9
X	JAOU-CHEM, H et al. «Gene transfer to cultured human endometrial stromal cells: a model to study cyclooxygenase-2 gene regulation», FERTILITY AND STERILITY, 1998, Vol.70, No. 4, pages 734-739. the whole document	1-9
X	HIROYASU, I. et al. «Transcriptional role of nuclear factor KB site in the induction by lipopolysaccharide and suppression by dexamethasone of cydooxygenase-2 in U937 cell». BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS, 1998, Vol. 244, pages 143-148. the whole document	1-9
Y	US 5556754 A (SINGER et al.) 17 September 1996 (17.09.96) the whole document	1-9

Patent family members are listed in annex.
 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot beconsidered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of mailing of the international search report 06 November 2000 (06.11.00)
Authorized officer



International application No. PCT/ES 00/00245

ategory*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
		Relevant to claim No.
Α	US 5445941 A (YANG) 29 August 1995 (17.09.95) the whole document	1-9
Α	US 5569588 A (ASHBY et al.) 29 October 1996 (29.10.96) the whole document	1-9
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i		

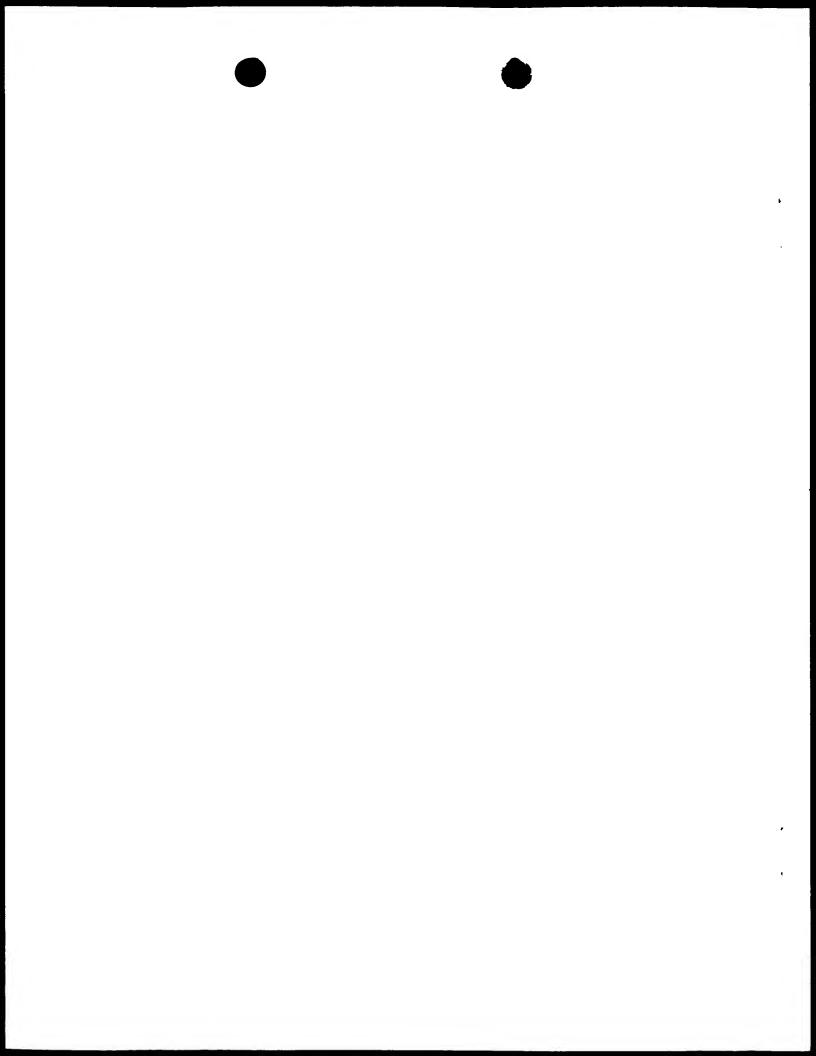


INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No PCT/ ES 00/00245

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent familiy member(s)	Publication date
WO 9837235 A	27.08.1998	AU 6015098 A	09.09.1998
US 5556754 A	17.09.1996	US 5871950 A	16.02.1999
05 333073 . 11		AU 695120 B	06.08.1998
		WO 9428897 A	22.12.1994
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		EP 0791078 A	27.08.1997
		AU 6720996 A	05.03.1997
		WO 9706277 A	20.02.1997



INFORME DE BÚSQUEDA INTERNACIONAL

Solicitud internacional nº PCT/ ES 00/00245

A. CLASIFICACIÓN DEL OBJETO DE LA SOLICITUD

 ${
m CIP}^7$ C12Q 1/68, C12N 15/62, De acuerdo con la Clasificación Internacional de Patentes (CIP) o según la clasificación nacional y la CIP.

B. SECTORES COMPRENDIDOS POR LA BÚSQUEDA

Documentación mínima consultada (sistema de clasificación, seguido de los símbolos de clasificación)

CIP7 C12Q, C12N

Otra documentación consultada, además de la documentación mínima, en la medida en que tales documentos formen parte de los sectores comprendidos por la búsqueda

Bases de datos electrónicas consultadas durante la búsqueda internacional (nombre de la base de datos y, si es posible, términos de búsqueda utilizados)

CIBEPAT, EPODOC, WPI, EMBASE, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, CA, STRAND

C. DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS RELEVANTES

Documentos citados, con indicación, si procede, de las partes relevantes	Relevante para las reivindicaciones nº
WO 9837235 A (CORNELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.) 27.08.1998, página 4, línea 35 - página 5, línea 15; página 6, línea 9 - página 7, línea 2; página 8, línea 3 - página 9, línea 3; ejemplo 1;	1-9
Todo el documento	1-9
JAOU-CHEM, H. et al. "Gene transfer to cultured human endometrial stromal cells: a model to study cyclooxygenase-2 gene regulation", FERTILITY AND STERILITY, 1998, Vol. 70, No. 4. páginas 734-739 Todo el documento	1-9
	WO 9837235 A (CORNELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.) 27.08.1998, página 4, línea 35 - página 5, línea 15; página 6, línea 9 - página 7, línea 2; página 8, línea 3 - página 9, línea 3; ejemplo 1; reivindicaciones 1-9 Todo el documento JAOU-CHEM, H. et al. "Gene transfer to cultured human endometrial stromal cells: a model to study cyclooxygenase-2 gene regulation", FERTILITY AND STERILITY, 1998, Vol. 70, No. 4. páginas 734-739

En la continuación del recuadro C se relacionan otros documentos	☑Los documentos de familia de patentes se indican en el
	anexo

- Categorías especiales de documentos citados:
- "A" documento que define el estado general de la técnica no considerado como particularmente relevante.
- "E" solicitud de patente o patente anterior pero publicada en la fecha de presentación internacional o en fecha posterior.
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- "X" documento particularmente relevante; la invención reivindicada no puede considerarse nueva o que implique una actividad inventiva por referencia al documento aisladamente considerado.
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- "&" documento que forma parte de la misma familia de patentes.

Fecha de expedición del informe de búsqueda internacional Fecha en que se ha concluido efectivamente la búsqueda 06 NOV 2000 internacional. 16 Octubre 2000 (16.10.2000) n 6. 11. 00 Nombre y dirección postal de la Administración encargada Funcionario autorizado de la busqueda internacional O.E.P.M. José Luis Vizán C/Panamá 1, 28071 Madrid, España. nº de fax +34 91 3495304 n° de teléfono + 34 1 3495524



INFORME DE BÚSQUEDA INTERNACIONAL

Solicitud in nacional nº

PCT/ ES00/00245

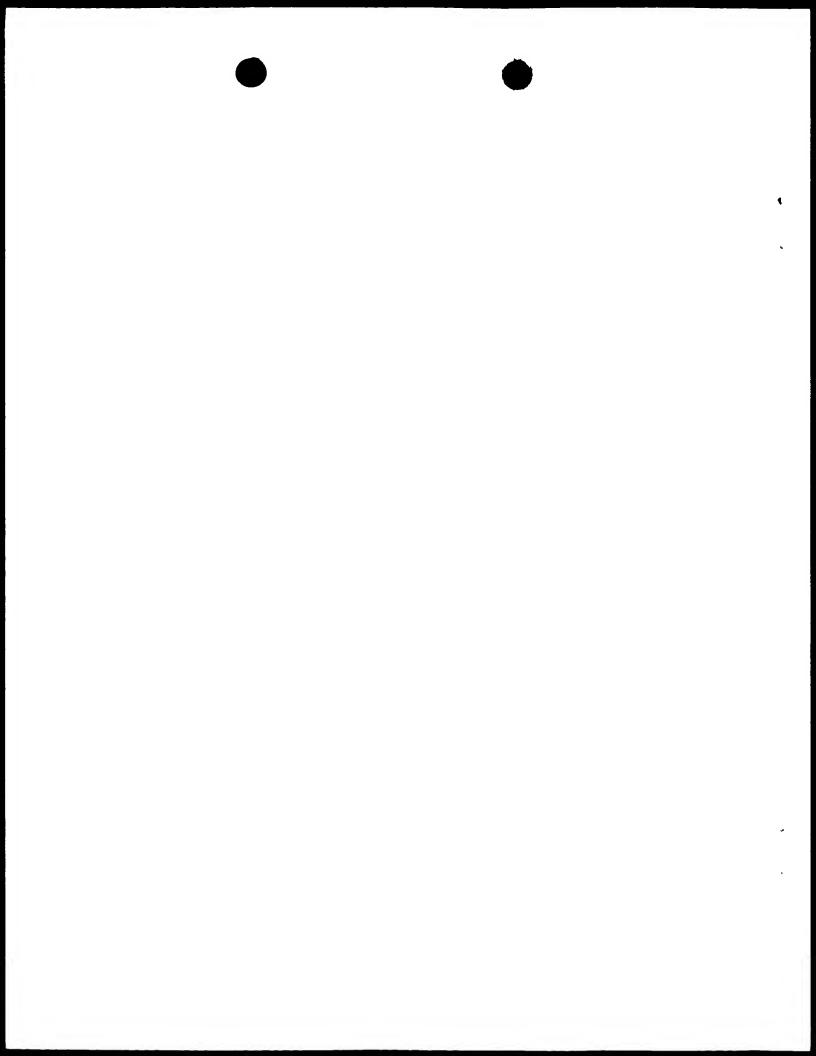
C (Continuación). DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS RELEVANTES				
Categoría *	Documentos citados, con indicación, si procede, de las partes relevantes	Relevante para la reivindicaciones n		
x	HIROYASU, I. et al. "Transcriptional role of the nuclear factor KB site in the induction by lipopolysaccharide and suppressión by dexamethasone of cydooxygenase-2 in U937 cells". BIOCHEMICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS, 1998, Vol. 244, páginas 143-148. Todo el documento	1-9		
Y	US 5556754 A (SINGER et al.) 17.09.1996. Todo el documento	1-9		
A	US 5445941 A (YANG) 29.08.1995 Todo el documento	1-9		
Α	US 5569588 A (ASHBY et al) 29.10.1996 Todo el documento	1-9		

INFORME DE BÚSQUEDA INTERNACIONAL Información relativa a miembros de familias de patentes

Solicitud internacional nº

PCT/ ES 00/00245

Documento de patente citado en el informe de búsqueda	Fecha de publicación	Miembro(s) de la familia de patentes	Fecha de publicación
WO 9837235 A	27.08.1998	AU 6015098 A	09.09.1998
US 5556754 A	17.09.1996	US 5871950 A AU 695120 B WO 9428897 A EP 0702554 A CA 2164641 A AU 056494 A JP 8511266 T	16.02.1999 06.08.1998 22.12.1994 27.03.1996 22.12.1994 03.01.1995 26.11.1996
US 5445941 A	29.08.1995	PL 177706 B IL 109990 A NZ 286125 A AU 2871097 A AU 677319 B ZA 9404160 A PL 303915 A HU 70326 A EP 0629697 A CZ 9401475 A CA 2126294 A BR 9402480 A AU 6470194 A NO 942313 A FI 942958 A CN 1102437 A JP 7184661 A	31.01.2000 20.06.1999 24.11.1997 25.09.1997 17.04.1997 13.12.1995 09.01.1995 28.09.1995 21.12.1994 14.06.1995 22.12.1994 25.01.1995 22.12.1994 22.12.1994 10.05.1995 25.07.1995
US 5569588A	29.10.1996	AU 724474 B JP 10507647 T CA 2202154 A EP 0791078 A AU 6720996 A WO 9706277 A	21.09.2000 28.07.1998 20.02.1997 27.08.1997 05.03.1997 20.02.1997



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

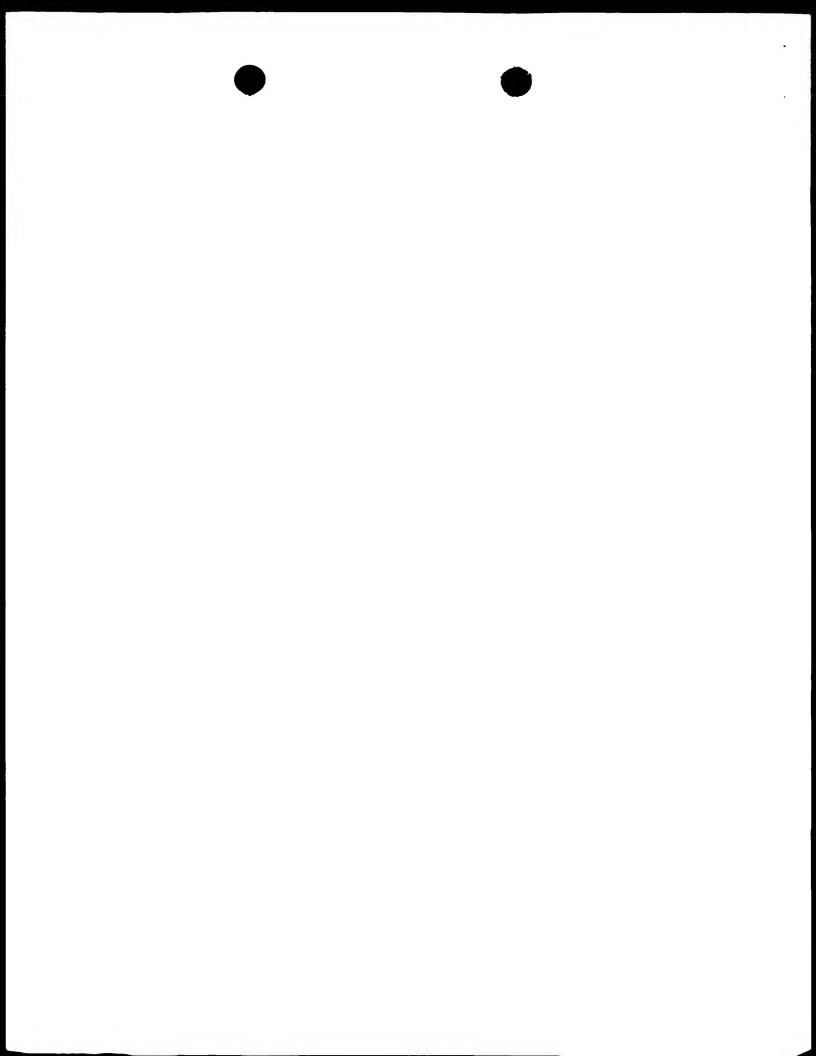
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's 2000186	or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
		International filing date (day/monti	n/year) Priority date (day/month/year)
International application No. International fill PCT/ES00/00245 11/07/2000		11/07/2000	12/07/1999
C12Q1/6 Applicant LABORA	TORIOS DEL DR. ESTE		
and is 2. This I	s transmitted to the applica REPORT consists of a tota This report is also accompa teen amended and are the	ant according to Article 36. If of 7 sheets, including this cover standed by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the basis for this report and/or sheets on 607 of the Administrative Instruct	ne description, claims and/or drawings which have containing rectifications made before this Authority
3. This !	□ Basis of the report□ Priority	relating to the following items:	ventive step and industrial applicability
IV	☐ Lack of unity of inve		
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VI	☐ Certain documents		
VII	☑ Certain defects in the second control of the second control	ne international application	
VIII	☐ Certain observation	s on the international application	
Date of sub	omission of the demand	Date of	completion of this report
12/02/20	01	19.10.2	001
	mailing address of the internat examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 52:	Herre	ro, M
_	Fax: +49.89.2399 - 4465		200 No. 10 80 2200 9542

Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8542

Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465



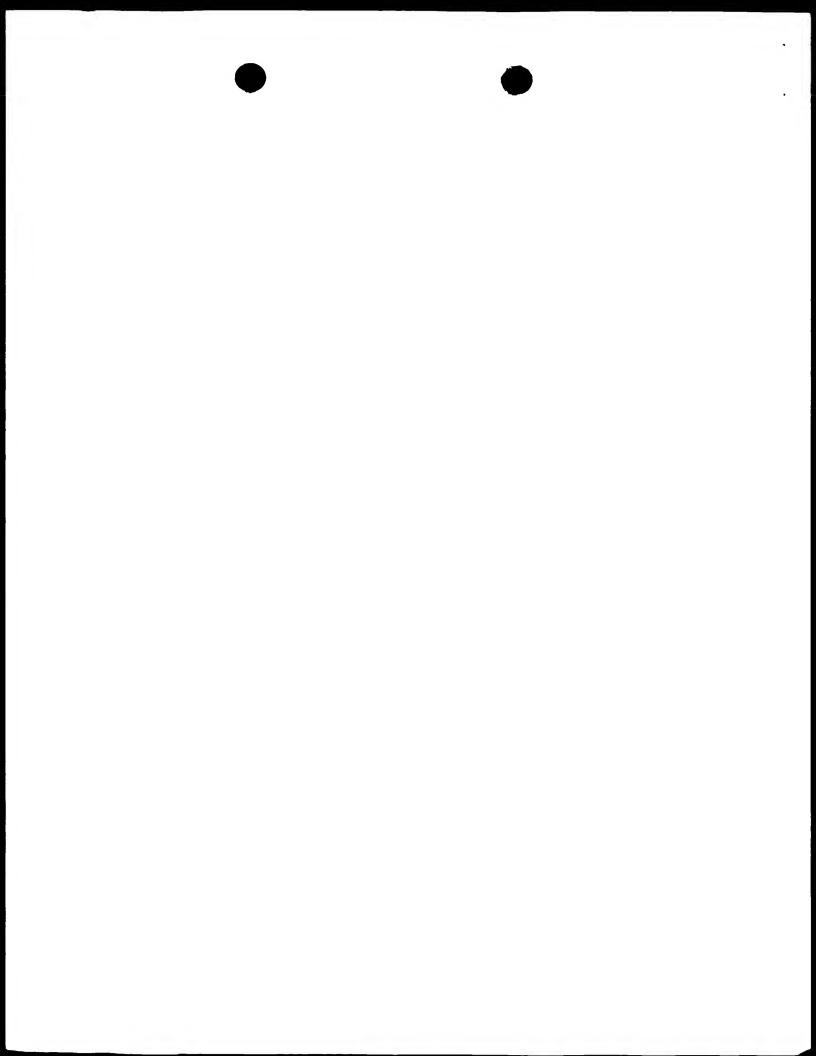
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/ES00/00245

I.	Basis	of	the	re	port
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١.	Das	Basis of the report					
1.	the and	With regard to the elements of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)): Description , pages:					
	1-27	,	as received on	26/09/2001	with letter of	18/09/2001	
	Claims, No.:						
	1-8		as received on	26/09/2001	with letter of	18/09/2001	
	Drawings, sheets:						
1/10-10/10 filed with the demand							
	Sequence listing part of the description, pages:						
	1-2, filed with the letter of 18.09.01						
2.	. With regard to the language , all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.						
	These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:						
	☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).					nder Rule 23.1(b)).	
	the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).						
		the language of a 55.2 and/or 55.3).	translation furnished for the pur	poses of inter	national preliminary ex	amination (under Rule	
3.	. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:						
□ contained in the international application in written form.							
	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.						
		furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.					
		furnished subsequ	iently to this Authority in compu	ter readable fo	orm.		
			it the subsequently furnished wr pplication as filed has been furn		e listing does not go b	eyond the disclosure in	
	☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.				the written sequence		

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:







International application No. PCT/ES00/00245

		the description,	pages:		
		the claims,	Nos.:		
		the drawings,	sheets:		
5.	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have be considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):				
		(Any replacement she report.)	eet contair	ning such	amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this
6.	. Additional observations, if necessary: see separate sheet				
٧.		soned statement un- tions and explanatio			rith regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; ch statement
1.	Stat	ement			
	Nov	elty (N)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-8
	Inve	entive step (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-8
	Indu	strial applicability (IA)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-8

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted: see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made: see separate sheet





SECTION I

- 6. Additional observations
- 6.1 This preliminary examination report takes into account the content of the Applicants' letter of 18.08.01 in reply to the written opinion dated 09.07.01, as well as the additional technical information enclosed therein.
- 6.2 It has been noticed that in the Applicants' letter dated 18.09.01 a wrong number has been assigned to the present International Patent Application (i.e. PCT/ES 00/00186 instead of the actual PCT/ES 00/00245).

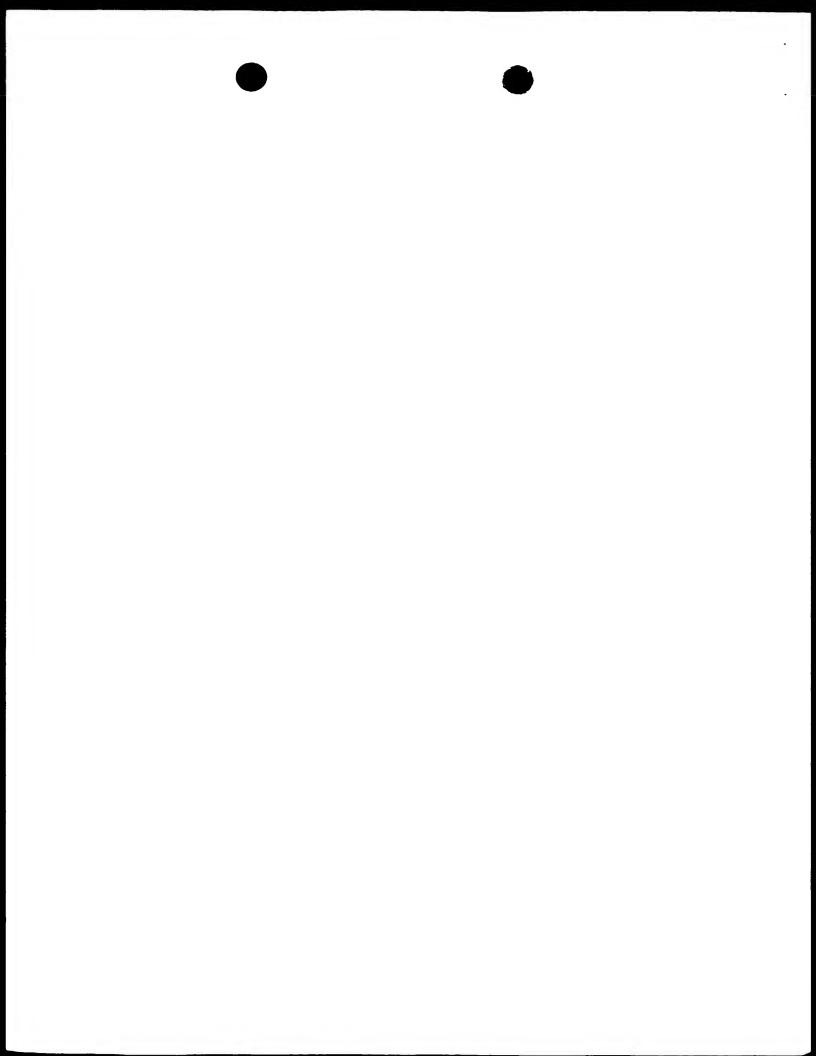
SECTION V

- 2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS
- 2.1 The following documents have been considered for the purposes of this report:
 - D1: WO 98/37235
 - D2: Huang, J-C and M. Y. Dawood (1998) Fertility and Sterility 70:734-739
 - D3: Inoue, H. and T. Tanabe (1998) Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. **244**:143-148
 - D4: Blanco, J.C.G. et al (19.06.00) J. Exp. Med. 191:2131-2144

D4 has been cited in the Applicants' letter dated 18.09.01 (a copy of the document is appended hereto).

D4 (published on 19.06.00) is not part of the state of the art according to Rule 64 (1) PCT, as the date of priority of 12.07.99 is hereby validly claimed.

D1 describes a procedure suitable for screening agents as candidates for drugs which suppress induction of COX-2 promoter (see e.g. page 3, lines 7-14; the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 and Examples 1 and 2). This screening procedure



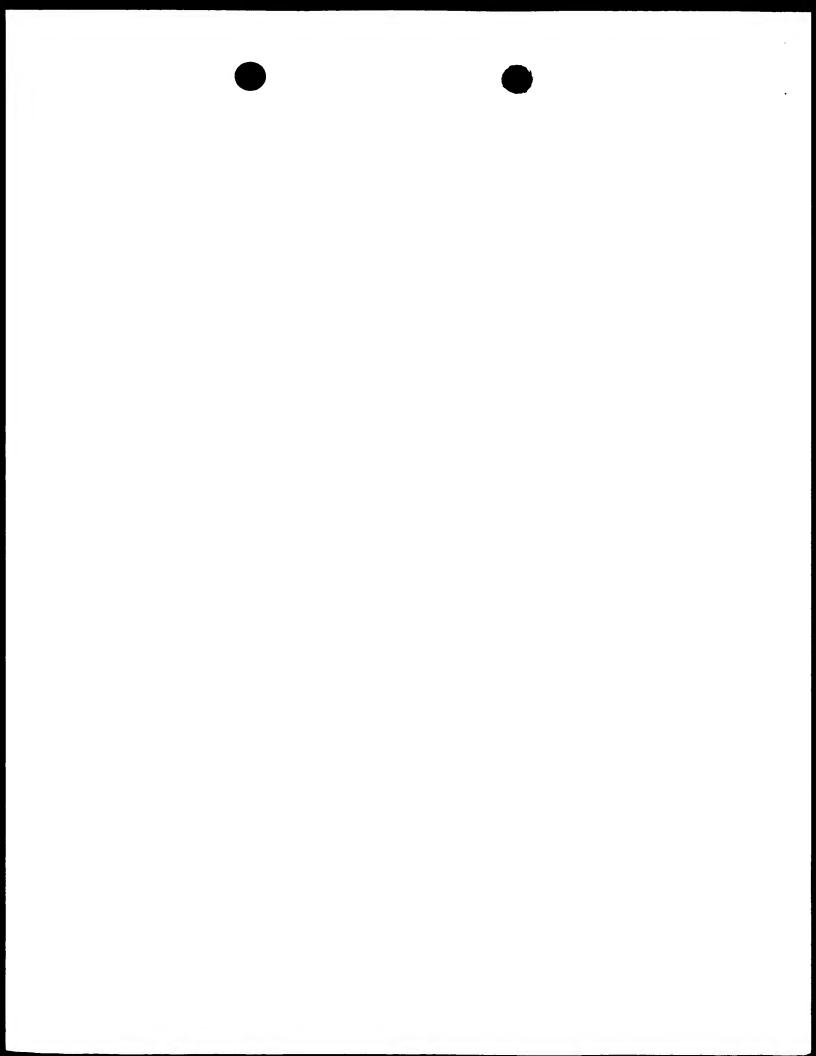
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

relies on the use a recombinant vector (the plasmid referred to on page 15, line 3 as "COX-2 promoter construct") comprising a construct containing 1432 bases 5' of the human COX-2 transcription start site (-1432/+59) ligated to the luciferase gene. To carry out the subject screening procedure, 1483 squamous carcinoma cells (an apparently conventional cell line in the related art) are transfected with the aforementioned vector containing the construct of interest (see also page 6, lines 3-25 and page 7, lines 27-36 bridging over page 8, lines 1-30 of D1).

D2 describes the determination of the effect of PMA and IL-1ß on COX-2 promoter activity (cf paragraph bridging left and right columns on page 736), based on the measurement of luciferase activity generated in endometrial stromal cells transfected with a vector denominated pGL-900. This vector contained a promoter-less luciferase reporter (from pGL-3) and a 900-base pair promoter sequence (-891 to +9 relative to the transcription start site) corresponding to the human COX-2 gene. Among other applications the approach disclosed in D2 can be used to explore the roles of different promoter regulatory elements in COX-2 gene activation (cf page 738, right column, last sentence of the discussion).

D3 studies the transcriptional role of the NF-kB site (nucleotides -223 to -214) of the COX-2 gene in U937 cells employing a luciferase reporter vector driven by the human COX-2 promoter region (nucleotides -327 to +59), mutated at both the cAMP response element and the NF-IL6 site, stably transfected into U937 cells. Attention is drawn to the assays carried out to determine the involvement of the NF-kB site in the suppression of promoter activity by dexamethasone and herbimycin A employing this reporter system described on page 146, left column, second paragraph.

D4 shows that IFN-y works as a pivotal regulator of the Cox-2 gene, activating its expression or coactivating LPS- and IL-1α-dependent Cox-2 expression in primary murine macrophages. This regulation is dependent on the expression of IRF-1 (interferon regulatory factor-1), and requires the presence of two novel ISREs (interferon stimulated responsive elements) that are localized in the promoter of the murine Cox-2 gene and are conserved in the human Cox-2 gene.





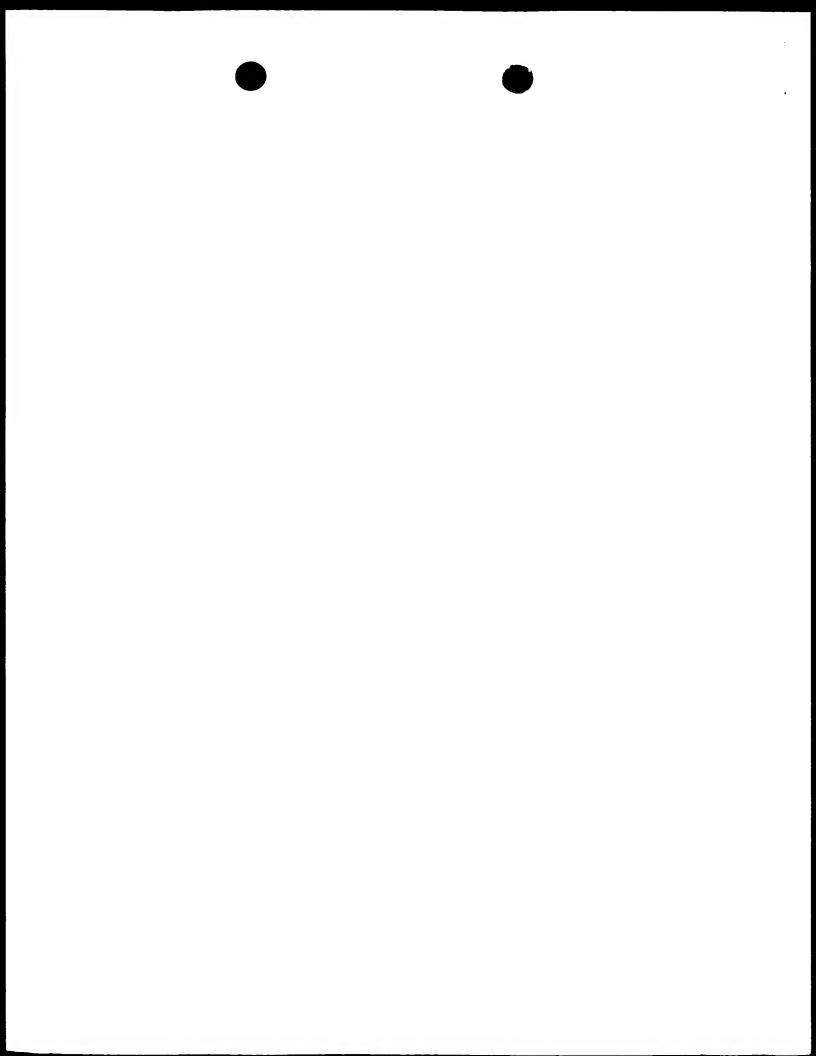
2.2 The hereby claimed DNA constructs (Claims 1-2), vector (Claim 3), cell lines (Claims 4-7) and assay method for the search of compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of Cox-2 (Claim 8) would appear to relate to novel and inventive subject-matter which satisfies the criteria set forth in Art. 33(2) and (3) PCT for the following reasons:

The DNA construct defined in present Claim 1 comprises the sequence lying between the nucleotides -1796 and +104 of the promoter of the human Cox-2 gene. This DNA construct is therefore novel (Art. 33(2) PCT) over related DNA constructs disclosed in the cited prior art (see above), which respectively comprise the corresponding nucleotide sequences -1445/-1432 to +59 (D1), -891 to +9 (D2) or -327 to +59 (D3).

The desirability of including in a reporter DNA construct of the type hereby claimed nucleotide sequences of the human Cox-2 gene promoter region extending further upstream than position -1475, relative to the transcription start site of the gene, seems to be non-derivable (Art. 33(3) PCT) from the teachings of the prior art (see page 6, lines 3-25 of D1), since the existence of promoter regulatory elements of the Cox-2 gene located further upstream than said position was apparently not known at the date of priority of the present application (see D4).

On the other hand, due to the presence in the hereby characterized reporter construct of an additional regulatory element (located between positions -1796 and -1475) the claimed assay method for the search of compounds which selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of Cox-2 by a suitable stimulus apparently makes feasible the detection of a wider spectrum of compounds of interest.

The subject-matter encompassed by Claims 1-8 is also susceptible of industrial applicability (Art. 33(4) PCT).





SECTION VII

The words appearing in drawing sheets 1/10, 2/10, 4/10, 5/10 and 6/10 have not been translated.

SECTION VIII

The description is not in conformity with the claims as required by Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT.



CELL LINE THAT COMPRISES THE PROMOTER OF CYCLOOXYGENASE-2

(COX-2) AND A REPORTER GENE, AND USE THEREOF IN THE

SEARCH FOR SELECTIVE INHIBITORS OF THE TRANSCRIPTIONAL

INDUCTION OF COX-2

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates, in general, to the search for products with potential therapeutic applications. In particular, the invention relates to a method for the search for compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of cyclooxygenase-2 that comprises the use of a cell line that expresses in a stable manner a construct of DNA in which the gene promoter sequence of cyclooxygenase-2 controls the expression of a reporter gene in response to appropriate stimuli.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

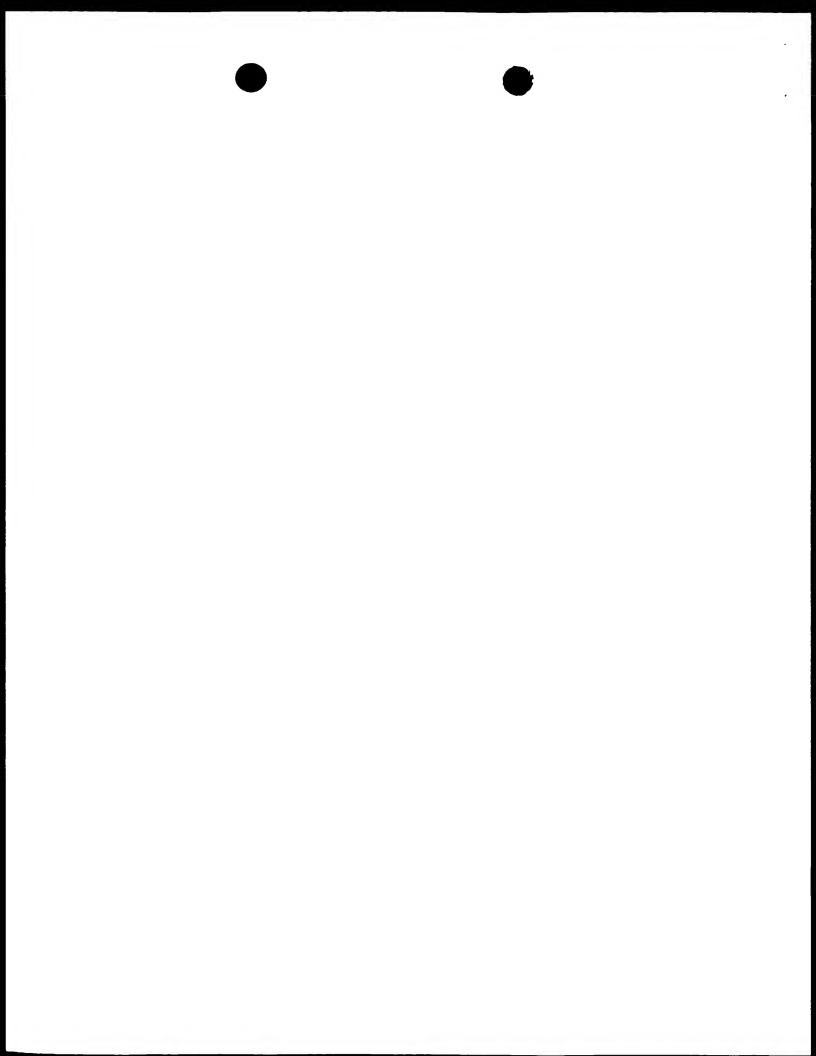
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The cyclooxygenase (cox) is an enzyme implicated in Two isoforms of cox are known, numerous processes. cyclooxygenase 1 (cox-1) and cyclooxygenase 2 (cox-2). Although both isoforms are related to the production of prostaglandins implicated in physiological processes, it seems that cox-2 is the isoform predominately implicated various pathologies in such inflammation, as carcinogenesis, angiogenesis and certain neurodegenerative processes.

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Induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 occurs



in response to several factors, among which can be found the expression of oncogenes, the treatment of tumours with promoters, mytogenous, pro-inflammatory stimuli, growth factors and cytokines [reviewed by Smith and DeWitt, 1996; Griswold and Adams, 1996; Jouzeau et al., 1997 (see section relating to REFERENCES)]. In most cases, the induction of this enzyme translates into an increase in the synthesis of prostaglandins, although other modes of action cannot be discarded.

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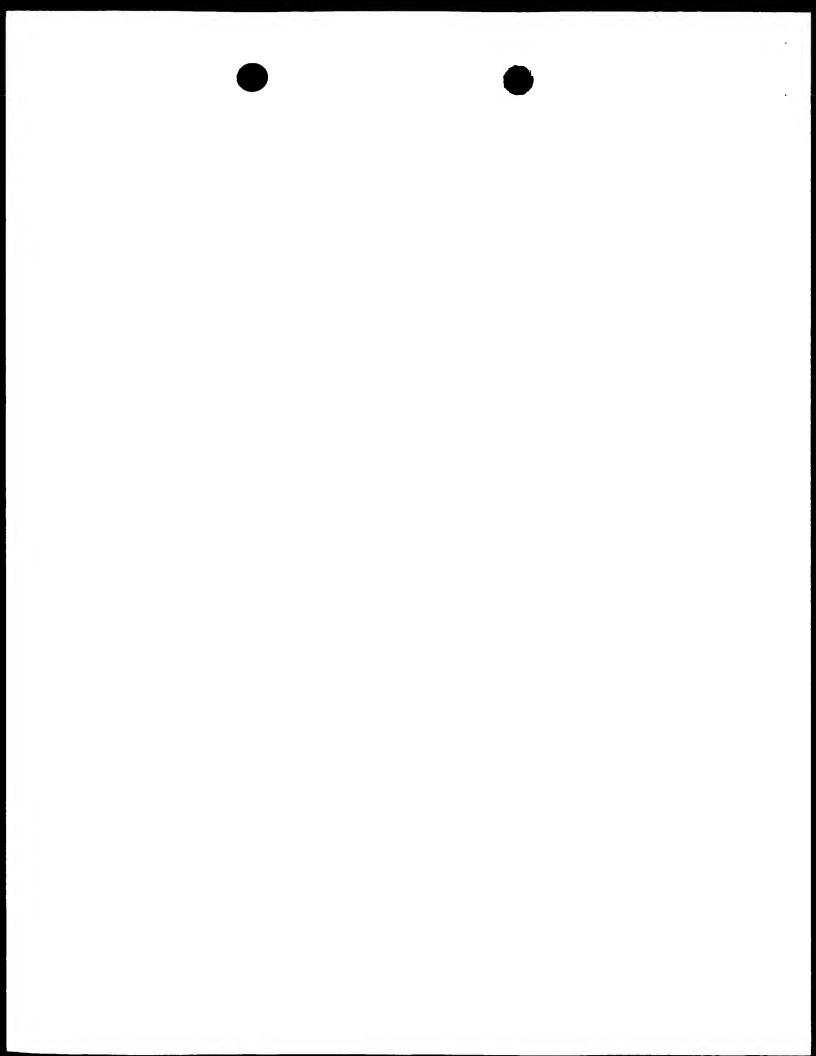
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The capacity of certain drugs of the family of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to inhibit cox-2 explains their therapeutic effects [reviewed by Smith and DeWitt, 1996; Griswold and Adams, 1996; Jouzeau et al., 1997]. Similarly, there is growing evidence that inhibition of cox-2 both by NSAIDS glucocorticoids or by cyclosporin A has immunosuppressive effects [Iñiguez et al., 1998; Hall and Wolf, 1997; Zhou et al., 1994; and the reviews cited earlier]. Other actions of induction of cox-2 relate to the implication cancer, angiogenesis enzyme in neurodegenerative processes such as Alzheimer's disease. It has been found that both inhibition of the induction at a transcription level of cox-2 and the enzymatic inhibition of cox-2 attenuate these processes [Shiff et al., 1996; Tsujii et al., 1997 y 1998; Subbaramiah et al., 1998; Pasinetti, 1998].

After discovering the inducible cox-2 isoform of the cyclooygenase enzyme, the methods for identification of new anti-inflammatory drugs have focussed on selecting



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compounds that are selective inhibitors of the enzymatic activity of cox-2 against the constitutive isoform cox-1. There are several types of system for this. Some use in vitro assays with purified or semi-purified cox-2 [Famaey, 1997; Noreen et al., 1998]. Other authors use animal or human cell lines that predominantly express the cox-2 isoforms in natural conditions or after induction with stimuli [Famaey, 1997; Berg et al., 1997]. Some use cell lines of animal or human origin in which the cox-2 protein is over-expressed by means of stable transfection of cDNA coding for this protein [Lora et al., 1997; O'Neill et al., 1995; Cromlish and Kennedy, 1996]. In some cases, it has been possible to determine using mRNA analysis whether such compounds inhibit the induction of cox-2 at a transcriptional level [Tao et al., 1998; Subbaramiah et al., 1998]. Systems have also been established for studying inhibitory compounds by means of in vivo assays, either with whole blood or with purified cells from healthy donors [Famaey, 1997; Brideau et al., 1996].

In any case, the main limitation of these systems lies in the fact that they allow selection of compounds that inhibit the enzymatic activity of the cox-2 enzyme, without considering their effects on the induction of the production of the protein, the step prior to production of prostaglandins by this enzyme. In addition to this limitation, it has been shown that the relative potencies of these compounds vary for the same drug for different types of assay. Similarly, an important aspect for consideration concerns the inhibition of the



physiological activity of cox-2, which would also be inhibited by the type of compounds identified by the aforementioned systems, which could lead to adverse side effects.

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It is known from WO 98/37235 a method of screening agents as candidates for drugs which suppress induction of COX-2 promoter. This screening procedure relies on the use of a recombinant vector comprising a construct containg 1432 bases from the COX-2 transcription start site (-1432 to +59) ligated to the luciferase gene.

Document Huang, J-C and M.Y. Dawood (1988)

Fertility and Sterility 70:734-739 discloses the determination of the effect of PMA and IL-1 β on COX-2 promoter activity based on the measurement of luciferase activity generated in endometirial stromal cells transfected with a vector that contains a luciferase reporter and a 900-base pair promoter sequence (-891 to +9 relative to the transcription site) corresponding to the human gene.

Document Inoue, H. and T. Tanabe (1998) Biochem.

25 Biophys. Res. Comm. 244: 143-148 studies the transcriptional role of the NF-kB site of the COX-2 gene in U937 cells employing luciferase reporter vector driven by the human COX-2 promoter region (nucleotides -327 to +59) stably transfected into U937 cells.



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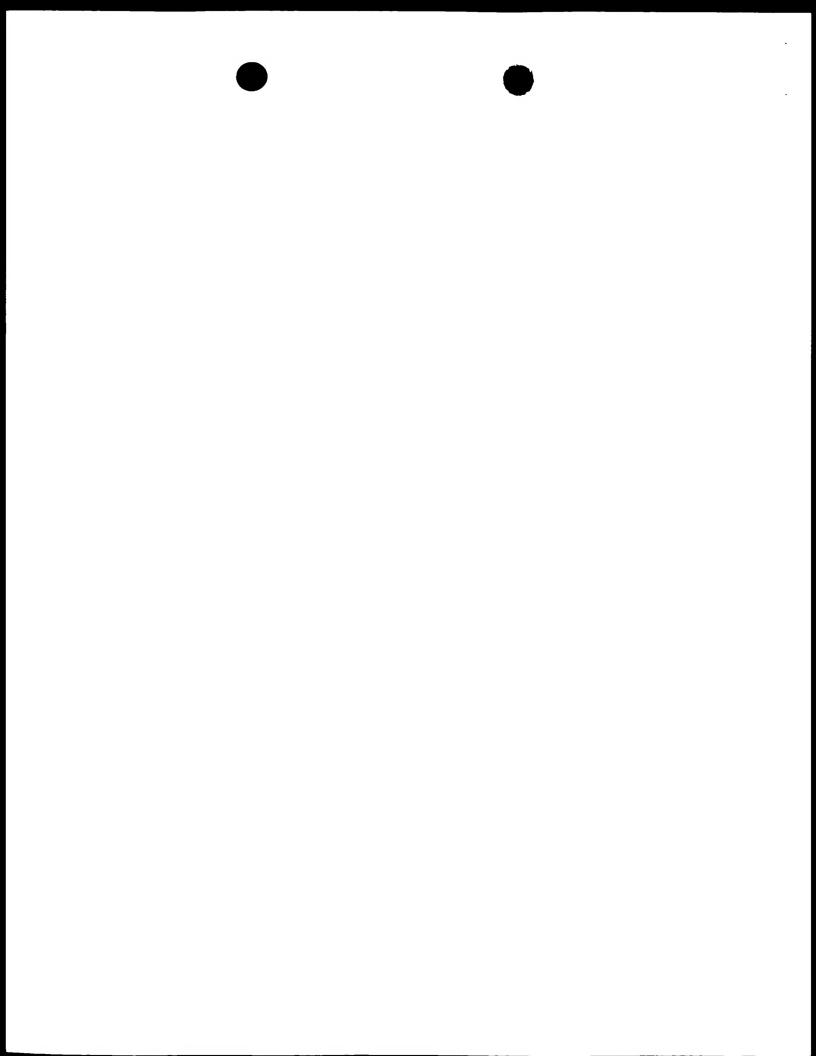
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There is therefore a need to develop a method for searching for compounds that selectively inhibit induction of cox-2 at a transcriptional level by different stimuli that overcomes the drawbacks mentioned above.

OVERVIEW OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides a solution to the existing need that consists of developing an assay system for the search of compounds that selectively inhibit induction of cox-2 at a transcriptional level by different stimuli. This criterion allows compounds to be selected that inhibit the production of cox-2, and so will act as inhibitors of the actions derived from an increase in the expression of cox-2 and of the subsequent increase in the production of prostaglandins that set off various pathological processes. Among other processes, the following processes can be highlighted: inflammatory processes, uncontrolled cellular proliferation, angiogenesis, carcinogenesis and neurodegenerative pathologies, as were described earlier. The criterion compounds according to this for the selection of the inducible invention lies in the inhibition of activity of the promoter of cox-2. Therefore, those compounds that inhibit the physiological basal activity of production of cox-2 will not be selected.

For the development of the solution provided by this invention, it has been necessary to construct a cell line that expresses in a stable fashion a construct of DNA in which the promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene controls



the expression of the reporter gene in response to a suitable stimulus. The regulation of the expression of the cox-2 gene is determined by the regulatory activity of its promoter, while the measurement of the activity of the reporter gene provides an indirect measure of the activity of the promoter of cox-2 in response to different agents.

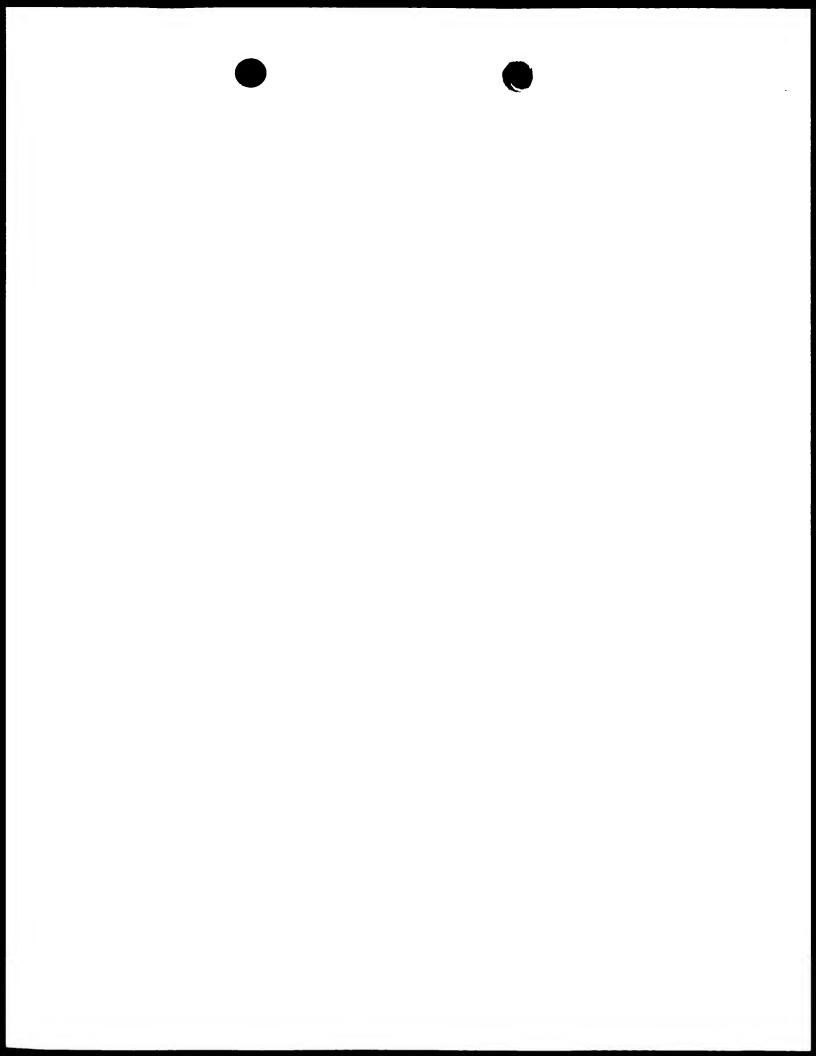
Thus, an object of this invention constitutes a DNA construct (or recombinant DNA) that comprises a promoting sequence of the cox-2 gene and a reporter gene, operatively joined to each other, such that said promoter sequence of the gene controls the expression of the reporter gene in response to a suitable stimulus.

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An additional object of this invention constitutes a vector, such as a plasmid or an expression vector, that comprises said DNA construct.

20 Another additional object of this invention constitutes a cell line that contains said DNA construct, or said plasmid that contains said DNA construct, that expresses it in a stable fashion.

25 Finally, another additional object of this invention constitutes a method for the search for compounds that selectively inhibit the induction of cyclooxygenase-2 at a transcriptional level, that comprises the use of said cell line that expresses said DNA construct in a stable 30 fashion.



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the sequence of the promoter zone of the cox-2 gene. The arrows indicate the sequences of hybridisation of the oligonucleotides used in the PCR reaction [polymerase chain reaction].

Figure 2 shows the strategy for cloning the promoting region of the cox-2 gene in the pXP2 plasmid in order to obtain the construct prom2-1906-LUC.

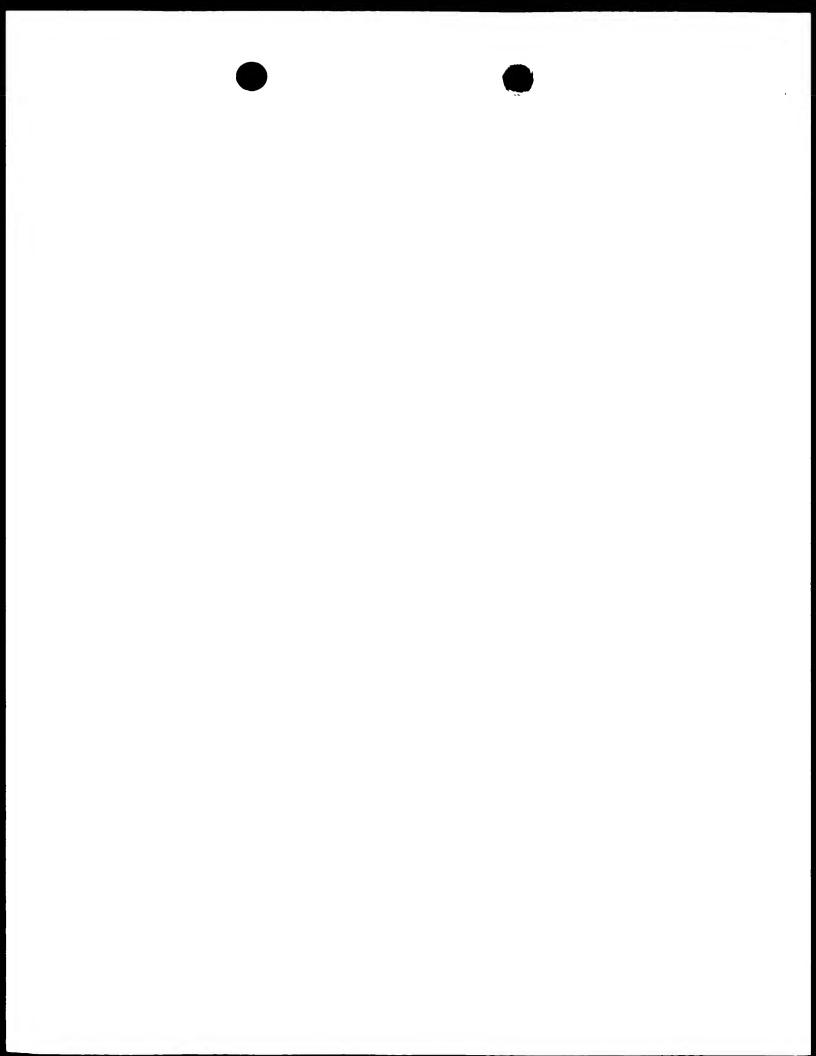
Figure 3 shows the results of the analysis by RT-PCR [reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction] of the expression of mRNA of cox-2 in Jurkat cells. In Figure 3(A) the effect of treatment with PMA and PMA + calcium ionophore A23187, hereinafter PMA-Ion, on the expression of mRNA of cox-2 is shown. In Figure 3(B) the inhibition by cyclosporin of the transcriptional induction of cox-2 is shown. In both cases, the result obtained for the non-inducible mRNAs of the cox-1 isoform and the glycerol-aldehyde dehydrogenase (GAPDH) by way of control is shown.

Figure 4 shows the result of the stimulation by PMA or by PMA+Ion of the luciferase activity in Jurkat cells transitorily transfected with the prom2-1906-LUC construct. As a control, it is checked that both the prom1-898-LUC construct and the empty plasmid PXP2 are not inducible.

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Figure 5 shows the result of inhibition by



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cyclosporin A (CsA) of the stimulation caused by PMA-Ion of the construct prom2-1906-LUC in the transient transfection in Jurkat cells.

Figure 6 shows the results of an experiment of transitory transfection with the prom2-1906-LUC construct and treatment with dexamethasone.

Figure 7 shows the results of the luciferase 10 activity of different clones obtained after stable transfection with the prom2-1906-LUC construct.

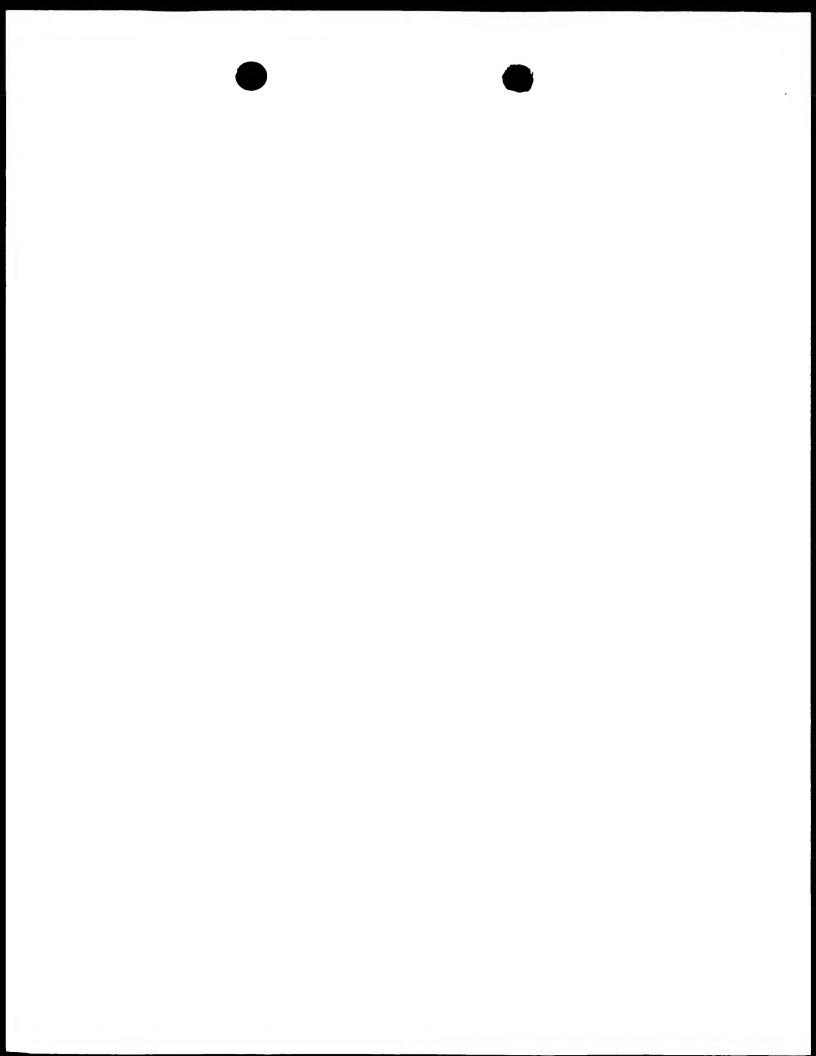
Figure 8 shows the results of inhibition by cyclosporin A (CsA) of the stimulation by PMA+Ion of the luciferase activity of the stable clones of Jurkat-1906LUC.

Figure 9 shows the results obtained for the inhibition by the glucocorticoide dexamethasone (Dex) on the stimulation by PMA+Ion of the luciferase activity of the stable clones of Jurkat-1906LUC.

Figure 10 shows the inhibition by Resveratrol (Res) of the induction of luciferase activity of the stable clones as a control of the assay system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides a DNA construct (or recombinant DNA) that comprises the whole part of a promoter sequence of the cyclooxygenase 2 (cox-2) gene



and a reporter gene, operatively joined to each other, such that said promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene controls the expression of said reporter gene in response to a suitable stimulus.

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The promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene may be of any origin, although preferably said sequence will proceed from the human cox-2 gene.

As a reporter gene, any reporter gene may be used that is able to produce an easily detectable signal, chosen from among those normally used in these types of transfection assays, for example, the chloranphenical acetyl transferase (CAT) gene, the beta galactosidase (β-gal) gene, the luciferase gene, for example, from glowworm or from Renilla. In a particular embodiment of this invention, said reporter gene is the luciferase gene of glow-worm because of its extreme sensitivity, speed and

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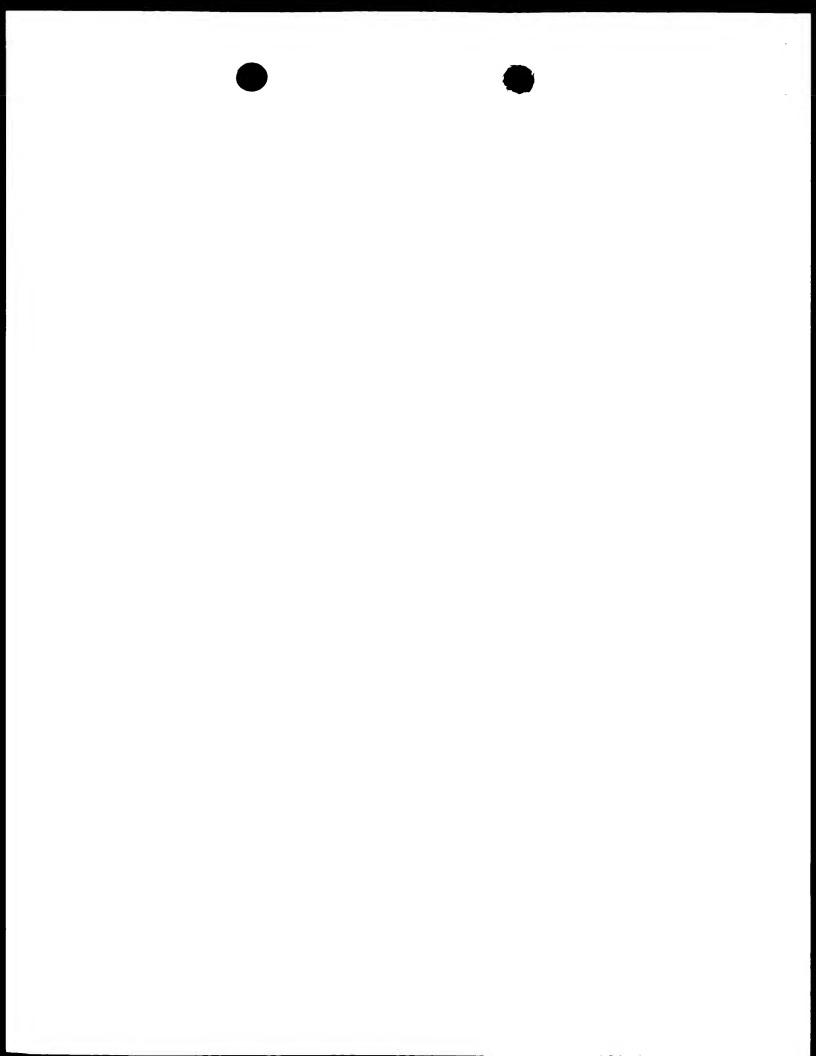
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The invention also provides a vector, such as a plasmid or an expression vector, which contains the aforementioned DNA construct. In principle, any vector can be used that is suitable for inserting into said DNA construct. These vectors are useful for the transformation of cells.

ease of use and low cost of the assay for its detection.

The cell line provided by this invention comprises, and expresses in a stable fashion, said DNA construct that comprises all or part of a promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene and a reporter gene, operatively joined to



each other, such that said promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene controls the expression of said reporter gene in response to a suitable stimulus.

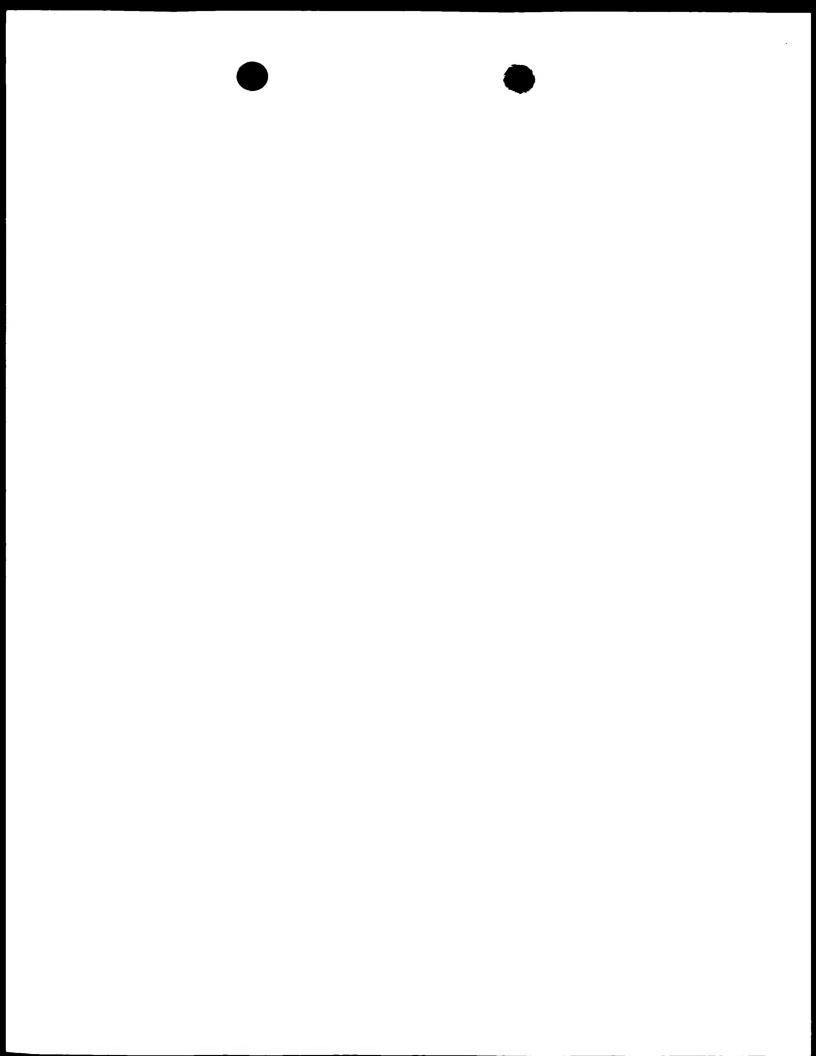
transformed cell line The that contains 5 aforementioned DNA construct may originate from any suitable cell line able to express said DNA construct in a stable fashion, for example, a cell line of human origin such as a line of cells of the T-lymphocyte type, Hep-G2 cells derived from hepatocellular carcinoma, Hela 10 cells derived from an adenocarcinoma of the cervix, cells of monocyte-macrophage type, for example, the lines U937 and THP-1, etc. In a particular embodiment of this Jurkat cell line has been selected invention, a (originally described by Schneider et al., 1977) as a 15 representative example of a transformed cell line of the T-lymphocyte type as a model for studying the expression of a gene related to the immune response. In addition, said cell line is easy to grow and provides a high yield of cells per unit time and volume (ml) of culture. 20

The cell line provided by this invention can be used as an assay system in the search and identification (screening) of compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 by different stimuli.

The cell line provided by this invention can be easily obtained using conventional procedures of Genetic Engineering, for example, by means of a process that comprises (i) the isolation of a promoter sequence of the

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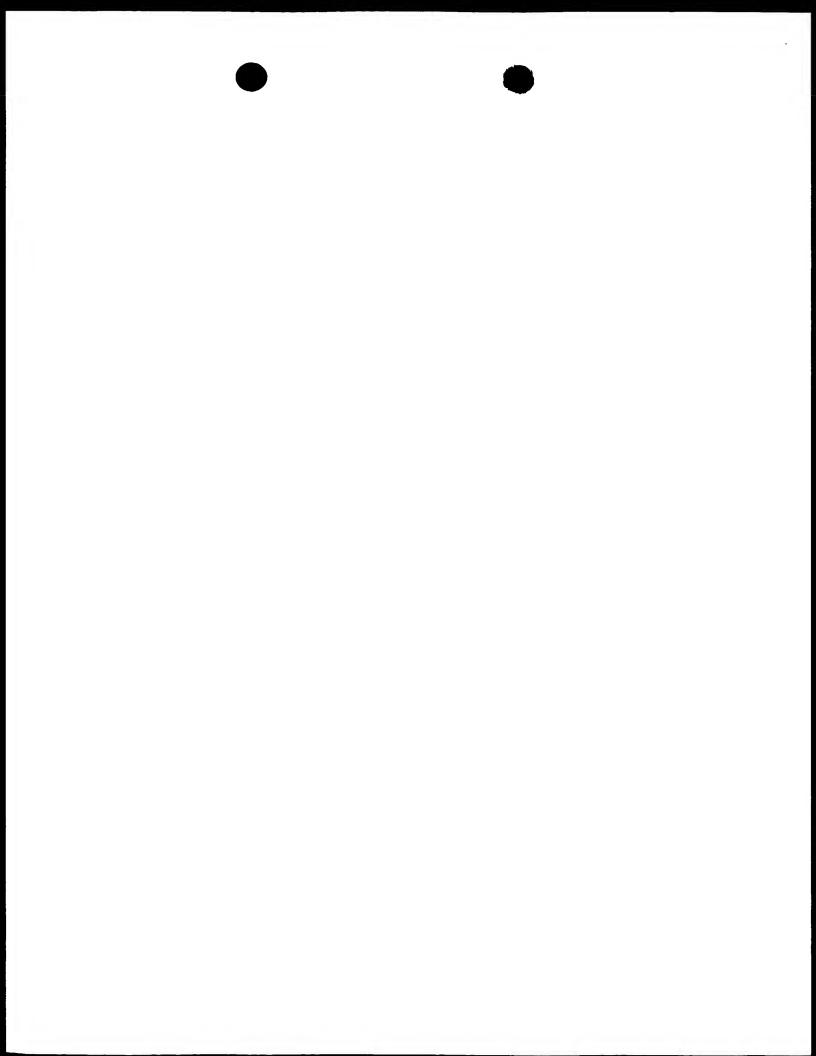
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cox-2 gene, (ii) the cloning of said sequence in a vector that contains the reporter gene, in a position in which said promoter sequence is able to control the expression of said reporter gene, and (iii) the transfection of a suitable cell line with said plasmid. In Example 3, there is described in detail a specific way for obtaining individual clones of transformed Jurkat cells which express the reporter gene (luciferase) in a stable fashion, denominated Jurkat-C3-1906LUC, Jurkat-F9-1906LUC and Jurkat-C7-1906LUC, in which the basal luciferase activity was determined and it was checked that the expression of the reporter gene (luciferase) was being induced in response to the same stimuli as the promoter had been previously established with of cox-2 as transitorily transfected cells.

The assay system (cell line) provided by this invention has been previously validated by the transitory transfection of the prom2-1906-LUC construct and the analysis of the luciferase activity under different The results obtained were stimuli and inhibitors. compared with a non-inducible control of a similar construct in which, instead of the promoter of cox-2, the promoter of the cox-1 isoform was put in place and with the empty vector pXP2. Under the same conditions, the gene was endogenous also behaviour of the cox-2 determined by experiments of RT-PCR in which the expression of mRNA is analysed. As a non-inducible control, the behaviour of the endogenous gene of the coxisoform and the non-inducible gene of glycerolaldehyde-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) was determined.



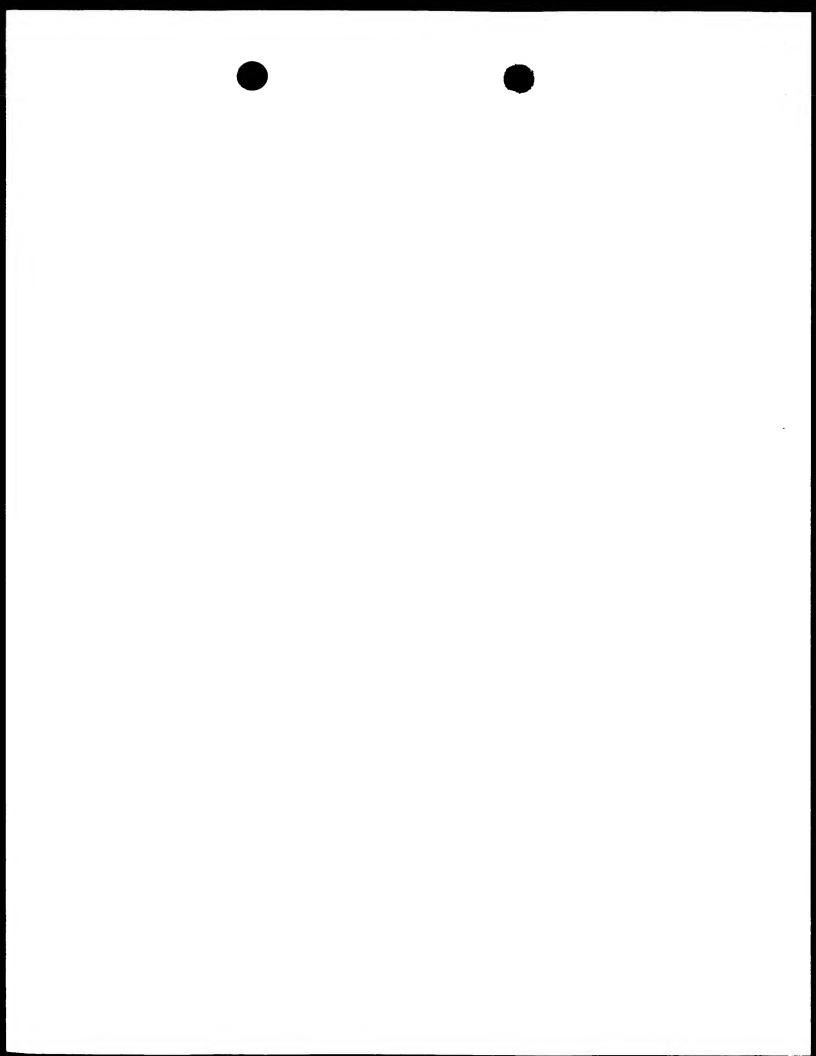
The main treatments were activators such as phorbol ester PMA (10 ng/ml) and the combination of PMA and calcium ionophore A23187 [PMA+Ion] (1 μM). Treatment with drugs that inhibit the induction by PMA+Ion were carried out with dexamethasone (1 μM), and with cyclosporin A (100 ng/ml).

Example 2 includes some validation assays of the assay system provided by this invention in transitory transfection, as well as the expression of the endogenous genes in Jurkat cells. Also, in Examples 3 and 4, some assays are presented carried out with the stable clones obtained, with compounds that induce and inhibit the induction the cox-2 promoter.

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The assay system provided by this invention is useful for the search and identification (screening) of compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 by different stimuli. This type of selective inhibitor of cox-2 may have 20 numerous potential therapeutic applications implications derived from the induction of cox-2 not only affect the inflammatory response, but also processes related to uncontrolled cellular proliferation formation of tumours (for example, the appearance of 25 adenomas, cancer of the colon and the development of among others), polyps and angiogenesis, immunosuppressant actions and with neurodegenerative processes such as Alzheimer's disease. As a result, it might be supposed that the compounds that selectively 30 inhibit the transcriptional induction of cox-2 may be



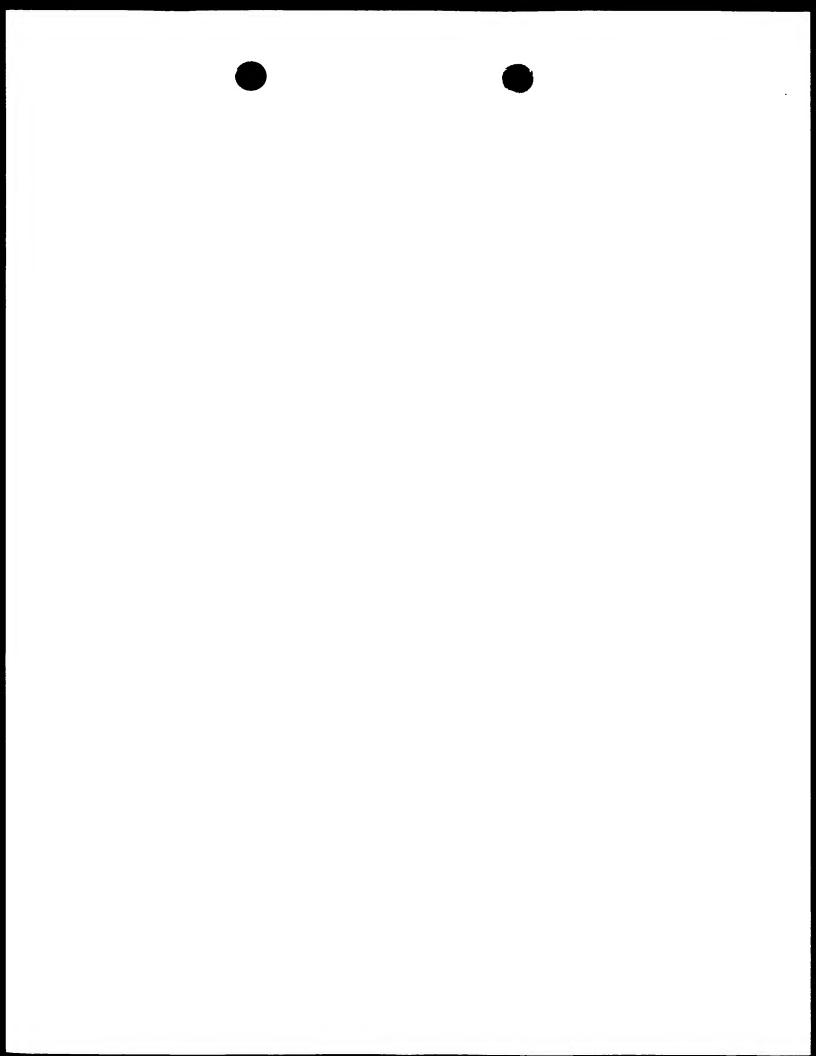
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useful as anti-inflammatory agents, as compounds able to attenuate uncontrolled cellular proliferation and/or the process of tumorigenesis, as immunosuppressants or as potential drugs with therapeutic properties in Alzheimer's disease.

The invention also provides an assay method for searching and identifying (screening) compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 by a suitable stimulus (described in Example 4) which comprises bringing the cell line provided by this invention (assay system) into contact with the compound to be assayed, in other words, with the compound whose potential selective inhibitory activity of the induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 it is that allow conditions wanted to test, in transcription of cox-2, and detecting, and/or measuring, the signal indicative of the expression of activity due to the reporter gene. Alternatively, if so desired, the assay method object of this invention can be performed by bringing the cell line, the assay system and the compound that activates transcription induction of cox-2 into contact.

In the assay method provided by this invention, the regulation of the expression of the cox-2 gene is determined by the regulatory activity of its promoter, while the activity of the reporter gene provides an indirect measure of the activity of the cox-2 promoter in response to different agents.



The assay method for the search and identification of compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 by an appropriate stimulus provided by this invention allows the selection of compounds that inhibit the production of cox-2 by means of a criterion based on the inhibition of the inducible activity of the cox-2 promoter, which will not select those compounds that inhibit the basal physiological activity of the production of cox-2.

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The following examples serve to illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention, but they should not be considered as limiting the scope thereof.

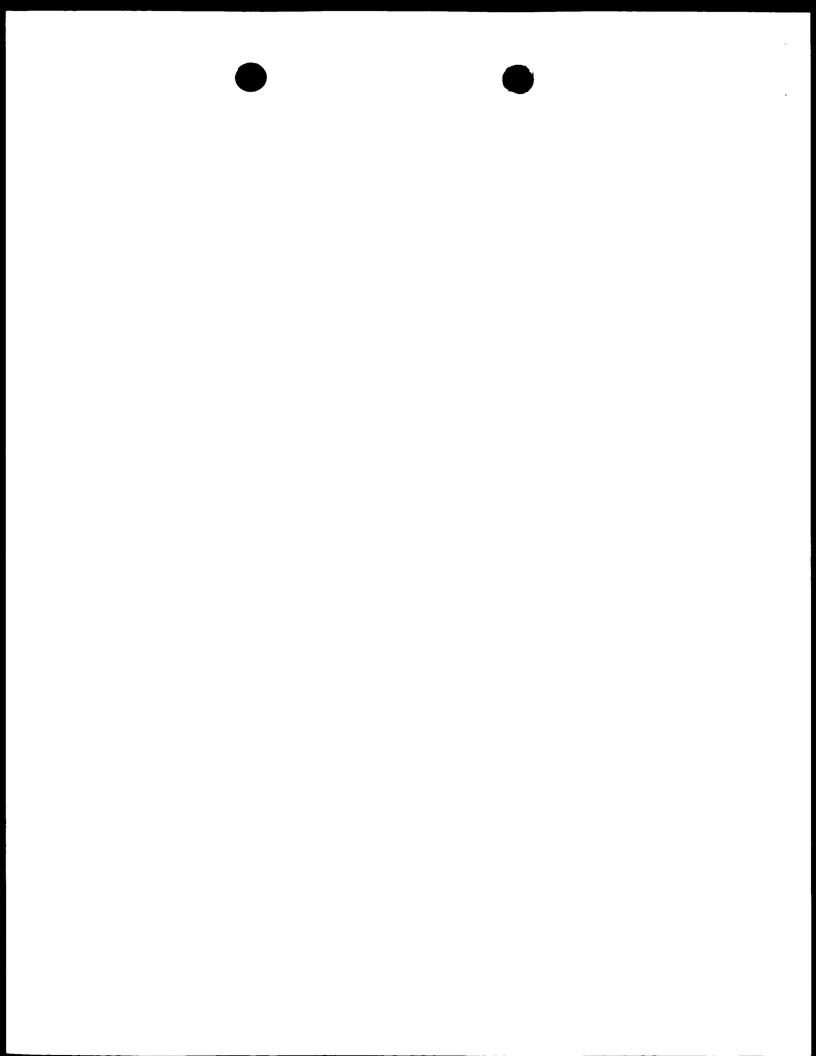
15 EXAMPLE 1

Production of a DNA construct that comprises a promoter sequence of cox-2 and the luciferase gene

1.1 Cloning the promoter of cox-2

In the first place, the promoter sequence of the human cox-2 gene was cloned from the sequence described by [Tazawa et al., 1994] represented in Figure 1.

The technique of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used, with the initiating oligonucleatides or "primers" designed for selective amplification of the fragment of DNA corresponding to the promoter sequence of this gene. The template DNA used was genomic DNA from the Jurkat human lymphocyte cell line. The oligonucleotides used were those identified as SEC.ID.No.: 1 and SEC.ID.No.: 2 [see the section concerning the LIST OF SEQUENCES].



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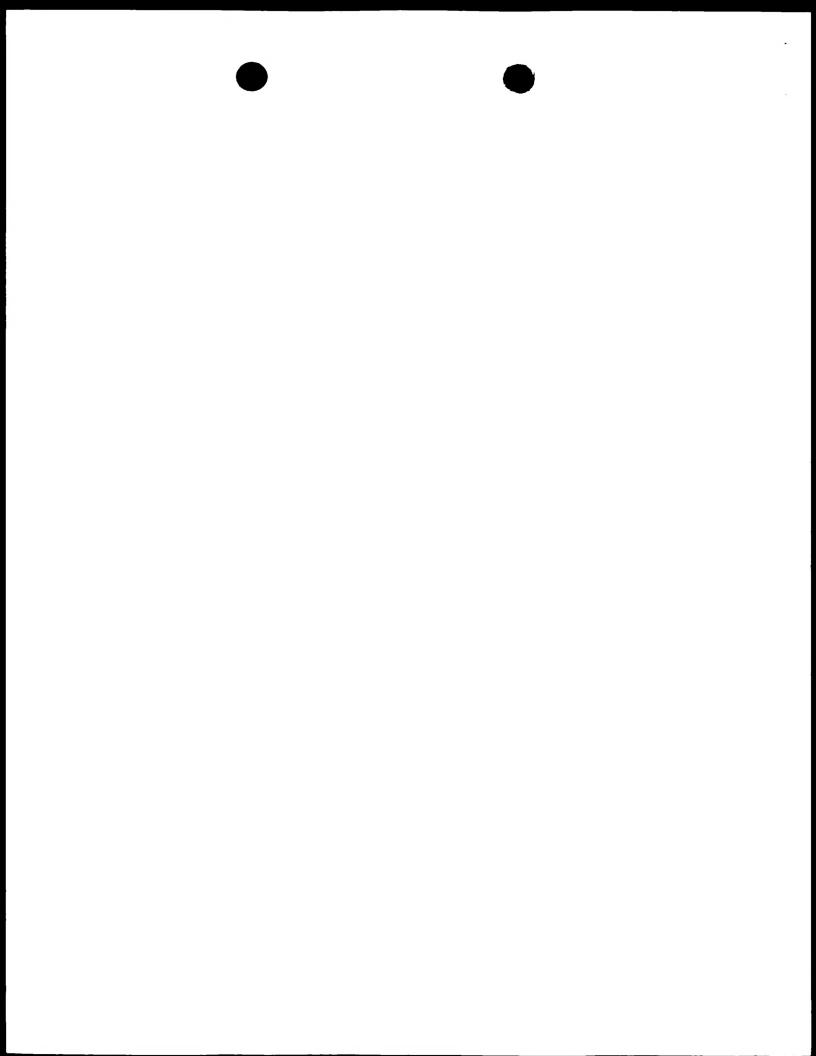
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These oligonucleotides amplify a sequence that ranges from nucleotide -1796 to nucleotide +104 of the promoter zone of the cox-2 gene (see Figure 1). For the PCR reaction, the Advantage cDNA PCR kit [Clontech] was used with 30 cycles repeated every 45 seconds at 94°C and 3 minutes at 68°C in a PTC-200 thermocycler PTC-200 [MJ Research].

1.2 Construction of the expression vector

The fragments generated after amplification were subcloned into the plasmid pXP2 [Nordeen, 1988] which contains the sequence that codes for the luciferase gene which will be used as the reporter gene (see Figure 2). The oligonucleotides were designed such that at the 5' end they contain an additional recognition sequence for restriction enzymes. After amplification, double chain ends are generated that contain the restriction targets BamHI at the 5' end and Bg1II at the 3' end. vector contains a Bq1II target at the multiple cloning site, which generates ends compatible both with BglII and BamHI ends. After digestion of the insert obtained by PCR containing the promoting sequence with the BglII and BamHI enzymes and the pXp2 vector with BglII, the binding of these sequences was performed. In this fashion, the plasmid prom2-1906-LUC was obtained in which the sequence (-)1796-(+)104 of the cox-2 promoter is located in front of the luciferase gene, controlling its expression. construction was sequenced to check the fidelity of the promoter sequence and to verify the cloning site.



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Example 2

Experiments in analysis of the regulation of the activity of the promoter of cox-2 by means of experiments with RT-PCR and transitory transfection of the prom2-1906-LUC construct in the Jurkat cell line

In order to study the regulation of the expression of the endogenous cox-2 gene in the Jurkat cell line, the analysis of the expression of its mRNA was performed by experiments with RT-PCR. At the same time, in order to validate the prom2-1906-LUC construct and to check that the regulation of the cloned promoter is as expected, experiments were carried out of transitory transfection of the prom2-1906-LUC construct using the Jurkat cell line. In both experiments, the cells were treated with compounds that stimulate and inhibit the induction of the promoter of cox-2.

Treatment with activator compounds were carried out using the phorbol ester PMA (Phorbol 12-Myristate 13-Acetate) (10 ng/ml) (Sigma) and the combination of PMA and Calcium ionophore A23187 (1 μ M) (Sigma), hereinafter PMA+Ion.

Treatment with drugs that inhibit the induction by PMA+Ion were carried out with cyclosporin A (CsA) (100 ng/ml) or the synthetic glucocorticoide Dexamethasone (Dex) (1 μ M) (Sigma).

2.1 Regulation of the expression of cox-2 mRNA in Jurkat cells



The results obtained from the analysis by RT-PCR of the expression of mRNA of cox-2 in Jurkat cells are presented in Figure 3, where the following can be observed:

- a) treatment with PMA (10 ng/ml) produces a slight increase in the expression of the mRNA of cox-2, while the combination treatment with PMA+Ion leads to a greater increase in the expression of this gene at a transcriptional level [Figure 3(A)]; and
- b) inhibition by CsA (100 ng/ml) of the transcriptional induction of cox-2 [Figure 3(B)].

As a control in both cases, the result obtained for the non-inducible mRNAs of the cox-1 isoform and for the glycerol aldehyde phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) are shown.

2.2 Evaluation of the luciferase activity under different stimuli

The luciferase activity in Jurkat cells transitorily transfected with the prom2-1906-LUC construction using the Lipofectin agent [Life Technologies] has been analysed. The cells were stimulated with PMA (10 ng/m) (Sigma) and with the combination PMA+Ion (1 μ M) (Sigma).

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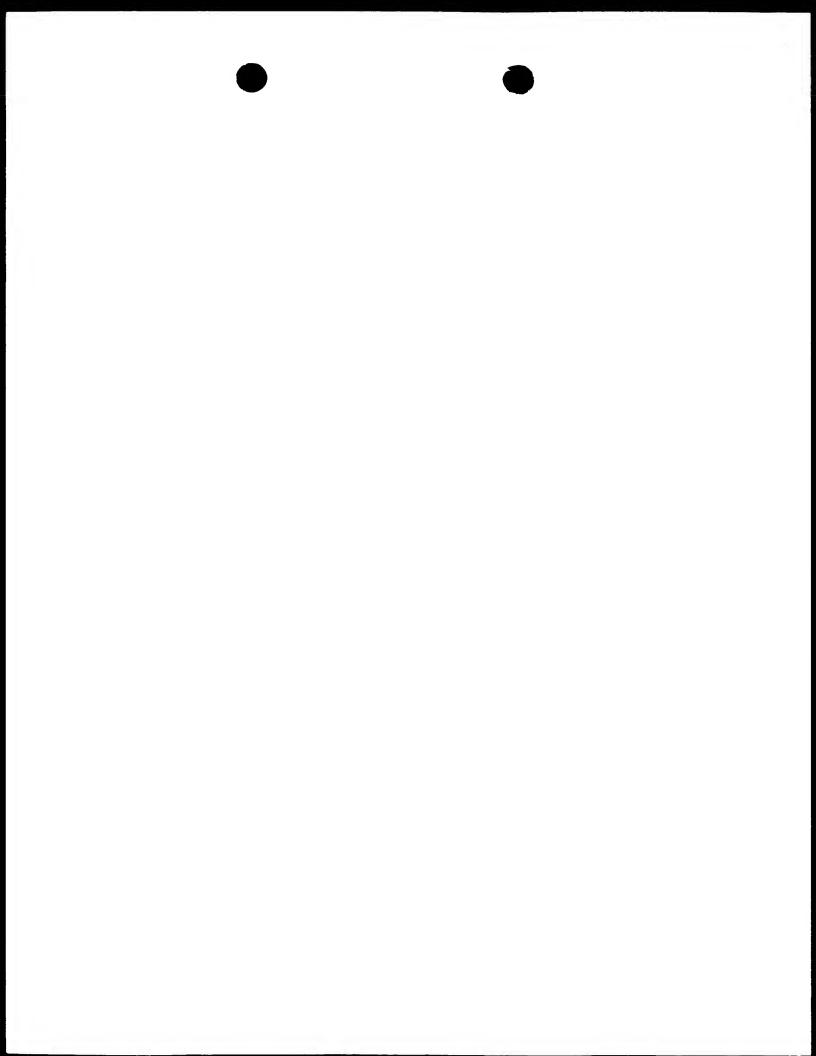
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As a non-inducible control, a similar construct was used in which, instead of the cox-2 promoter, the promoter of the cox-1 isoform was put in place [prom1-898-LUC] and with the empty vector pXP2.

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The luciferase activity was determined using the kit



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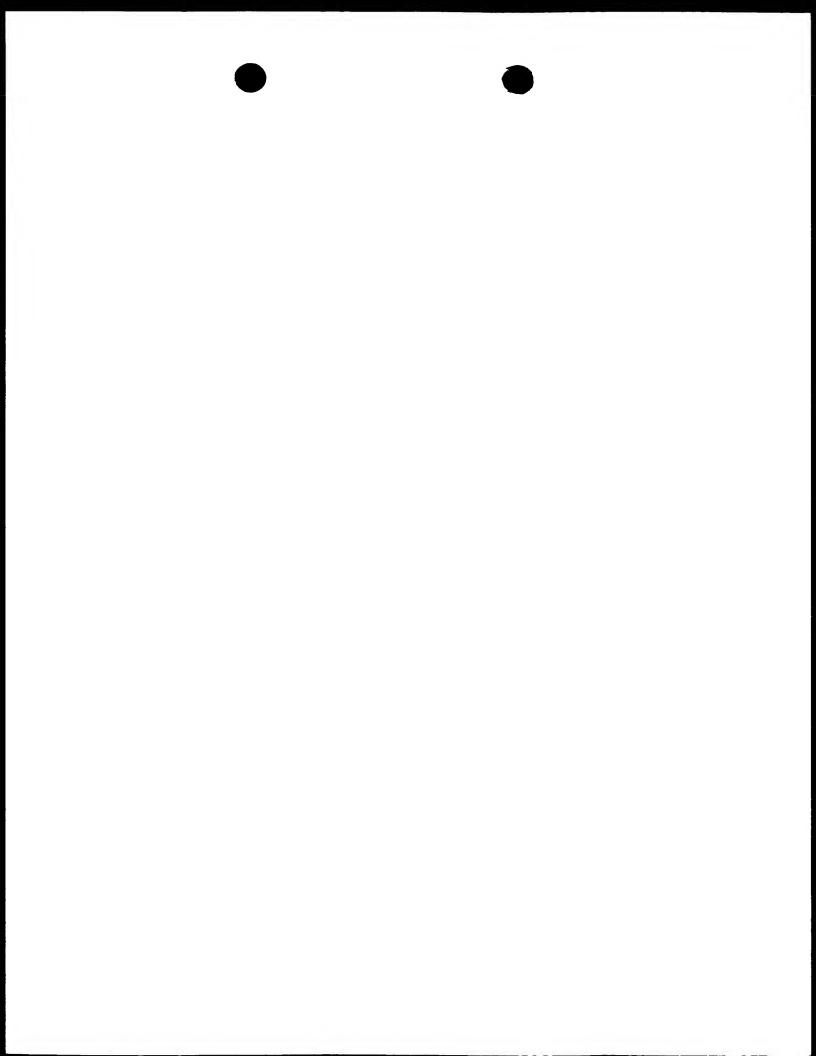
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"Luciferase Assay System" [Promega], with $1x10^6$ cells which where lysed in 50 μl of lysis buffer. In the extracts obtained, the light emission produced was measured using a luminometer Monolight 2010 [Analytical Luminiscence Laboratory] with an automatic injection system of 100 μl of reagent.

The results obtained are shown in Figure 4. As can be seen in said figure, the results obtained in this assay are comparable to those obtained in the analysis of mRNA of cox-2 [Example 2.1], in other words, treatment with PMA+Ion produces a greater increase in the number of times there is induction of the luciferase activity (approximately 12 times the basal value). These data show that the cloned promoter sequence behaves in a similar fashion to the endogenous gene. As a control, it is checked that neither the prom1-898-LUC construct nor the empty plasmid pXP2 are inducible.

20 2.3 Evaluation of the luciferase activity under different inhibitors

The inhibition of stimulation by PMA (10 ng/m) (Sigma) or PMA+Ion (1 μ M) (Sigma) on the luciferase activity in Jurkat cells transitorily transfected with the prom2-1906-LUC construct has been investigated by using the immunosuppressant drug cyclosporin A (CsA) (100 ng/ml). The results obtained are shown in Figure 5 where it can been seen that treatment with CsA (100 ng/ml) reduces stimulation of the promoter of cox-2 in response to PMA+Ion to values similar to basal ones.



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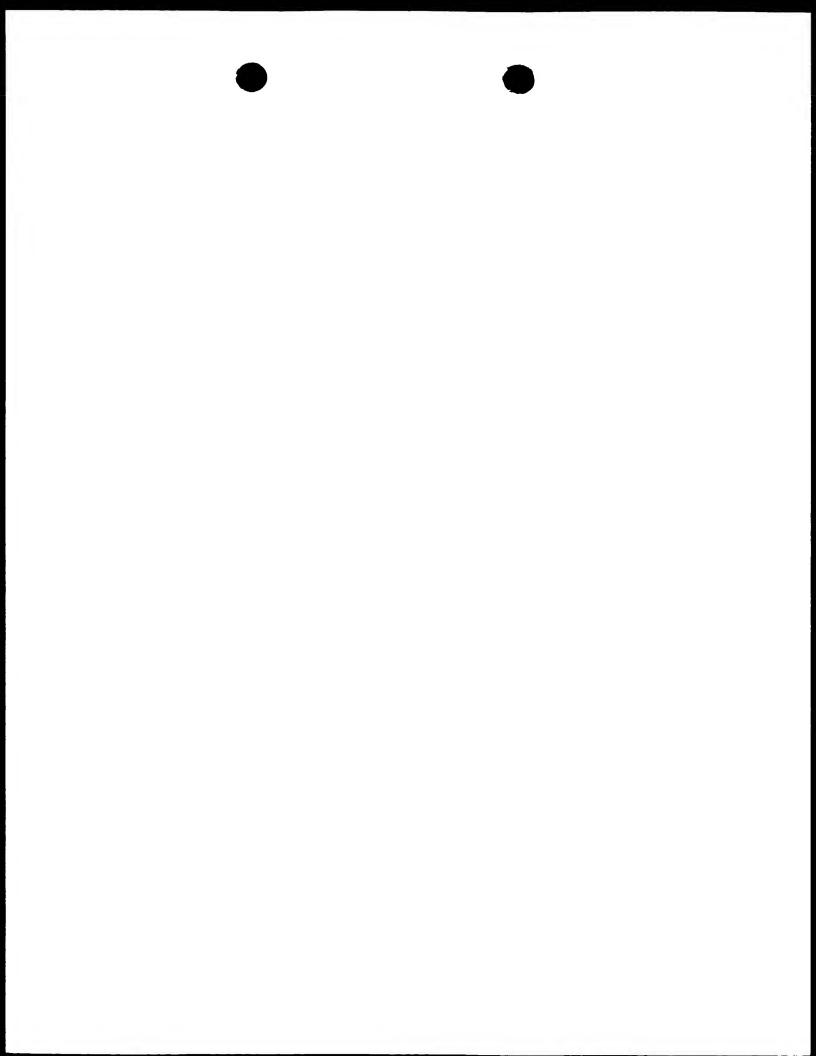
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Similarly, the inhibition of stimulation by PMA+Ion (1 μ M) (Sigma) on the luciferase activity has been analysed in Jurkat cells transitorily transfected with the prom2-1906 construct by means of the glucocorticoide dexamethasone (1 μ M) (Sigma). The results obtained are shown in Figure 6 where it can be seen that treatment with dexamethasone (1 μ M) (Dex) reduces stimulation of the promoter of cox-2 in response to PMA+Ion.

Example 3

Production of a cell line that stably expresses a DNA construct that comprises a promoter sequence of cox-2 and the luciferase gene.

For the creation of a cell line that stably expresses the prom2-1906-LUC construct, Jurkat cells were co-transfected with the vector prom2-1906-LUC and a vector denominated pcDNA3.1/Hygro (Invitrogen) which contains the gene for resistance to hygromycin. The transfection was carried out by means of the technique of electroporation in cuvettes of 0.4 cm (BioRad) with 15 x106 cells in 0.5 ml of complete medium [RMPI medium supplemented with 10% of foetal serum, L-glutamine 2mM and a mixture of antibiotics] (All these products were The cells acquired from Life Technologies). incubated over ice for 10 minutes with 25 μg of plasmid prom2-1906-LUC and 5 μg of the vector pCDNA3.1./Hygro. After this period, the cells were electroporated in a Gene Pulser II (BioRad) apparatus at 1.500 µFaradays of capacitance and a current of 280 V. Next, the cells were incubated over ice for 10 minutes before adding 10 ml of

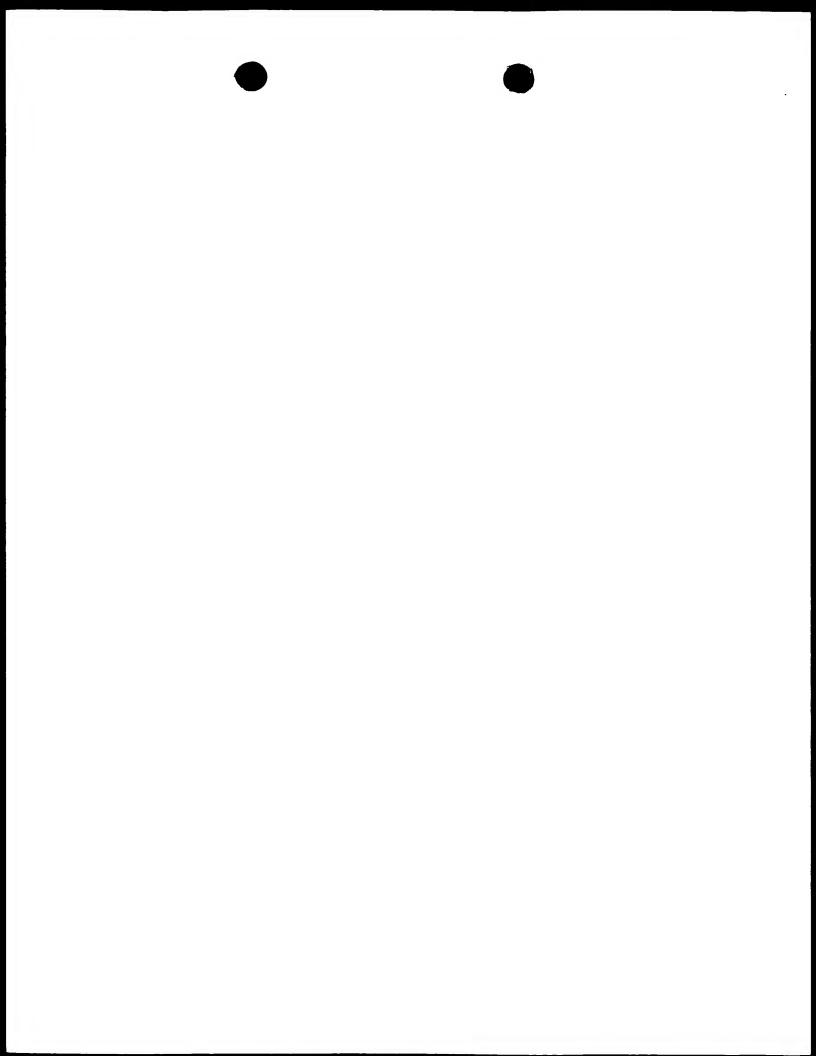


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complete medium. The cells were cultured in this medium in 75 cm2 culture flasks (Nunc) for 48 hours in a cell incubator at 37° C with a humidity of 95% and 5% of CO_2 . At this time, the medium was changed for complete medium with no antibiotics to which hygromycin (Boehringer Mannheim) was added at a concentration of 200 μ g/ml. The cells were cultured in this medium for 30 days with successive changes of medium. During this period the resistant population that survived treatment with the selective antibiotic was selected, in other words, the cells stably transfected with the gene for resistance to In this population the the hygromycin antibiotic. expression of the luciferase gene was analysed in order to determine the presence of transfectants stable for the plasmid prom2-1906-LUC. For this, 1x106 cells were lysed in 50 µl of lysis buffer (Promega) and with the extracts obtained, the luciferase activity was determined using the reagents contained in the kit of the "Luciferase Assay System" [Promega]. Measurement of produced was determined using a luminometer MonoLight 2010 (Analytical Luminiscence Laboratory) with a system of automatic injection of 100 μl of reagent.

From this polyclonal population (Jurkat-pool1906LUC) a limit dilution was performed on 96-well plates
in complete medium with hygromycin in order to obtain
individual clones that expressed the luciferase gene in
a stable fashion. These clones were grown until
obtaining at least 1x106 cells with which measurement of
the luciferase activity could be performed as described
earlier. In this way, three individual clones were



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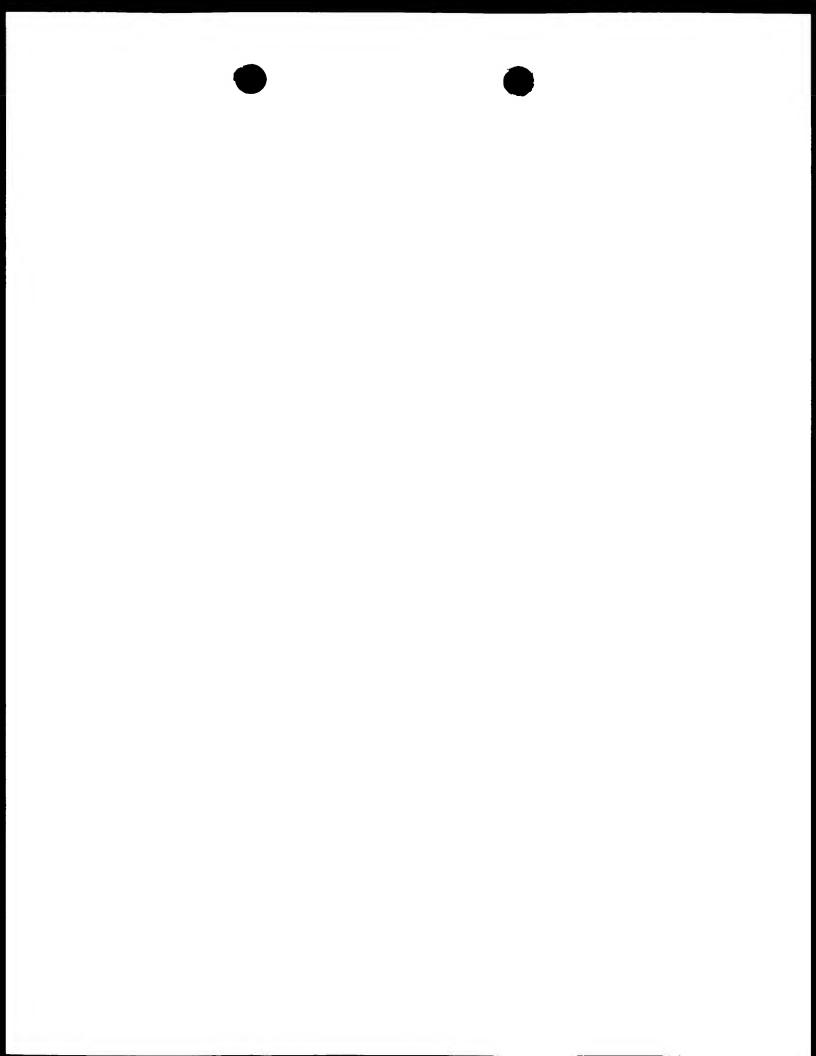
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obtained denominated Jurkat-C3-1906LUC, Jurkat-F9-1906LUC and Jurkat-C7-1906LUC. In these clones the basal luciferase activity was determined in RLU (relative and it was checked that luminescence units) expression of the luciferase reporter was being induced in response to the same stimuli as the promoter of cox-2 previously with been established transitorily transfected (see Figure 7). In the three clones, the basal values of luciferase activity increase from 3 to 6 times with a treatment of 6 hours with the phorbol ester PMA and up to 10 - 20 times with a combined treatment PMA+Ion, in a similar fashion to the results obtained in the cells transfected transitorily.

Example 4

Establishment of an assay system for compounds that regulate the expression of the gene cox-2 in the clones of the cell line that stably expresses a DNA construct that comprises a promoter sequence of cox-2 and the luciferase gene.

The clones were cultured on plates of 96-wells at a density of 1×10^5 cells in 200 μl of RPMI medium supplemented with 2% of foetal serum, L-Glutamine 2 mM and a mixture of antibiotics. The cells were treated for 6 hours with different concentrations of compounds whose activity it was hoped to analyse. In the case of the assay of the activity of these compounds on the induction of activity of the cox-2 promoter, the cells were treated with PMA+Ion for 5 hours, after 1 hour of pre-treatment with the compound to test. After this period, the cells



were lysed in 50 μ l of lysis buffer and their luciferase activity determined using 20 μ l in a luminometer as was described in Example 2.2. Next, some results obtained are shown with compounds previously described as inhibitors of the stimulation of the cox-2 promoter.

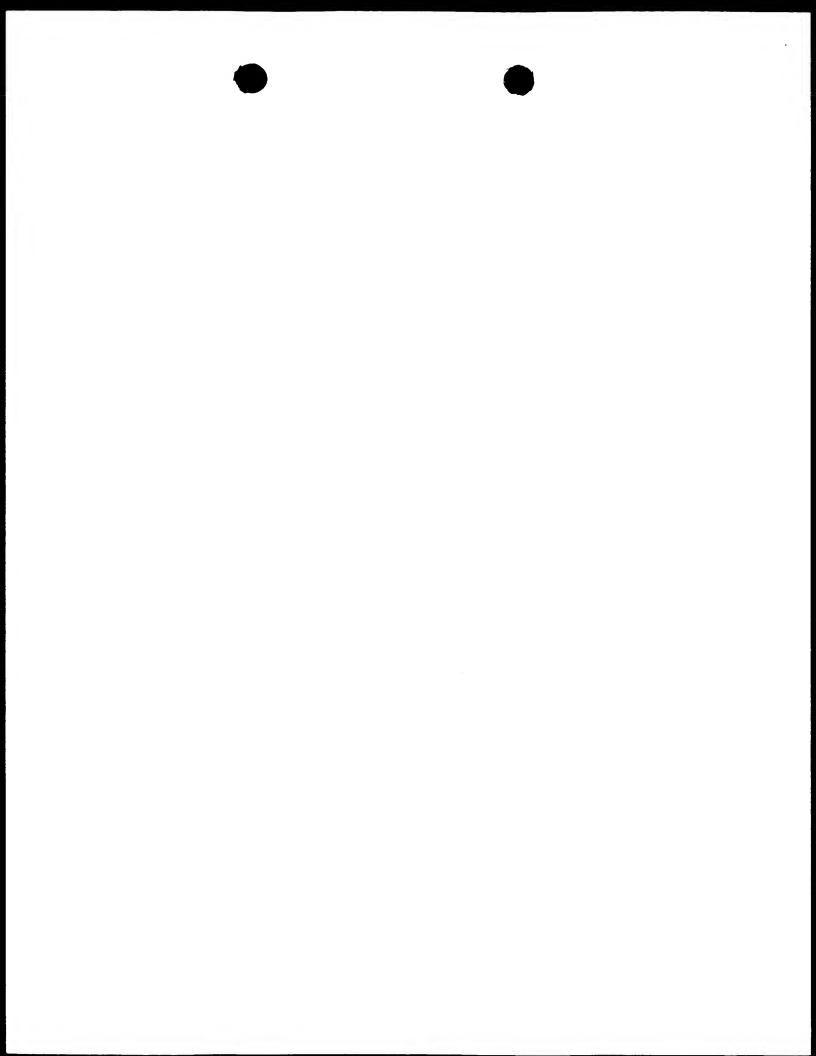
Figure 8 shows the results obtained with the compound cyclosporin A (CsA) which produces an inhibition of the stimulation obtained with PMA+Ion in stable Jurkat clones, in a similar fashion to that already described (Iñiguez et al., 1998), and that observed in the transitory transfections illustrated in Example 2.3.

Figure 9 shows the results obtained with the compound Dexamethasone (Dex), which, like glucocorticoide and anti-inflammatories, produces an inhibition of the stimulation obtained with PMA+Ion in the stable Jurkat clones, corresponding to that already described (Smith and DeWitt, 1996) and that observed previously in the transitory transfections of Example 2.3.

Figure 10 shows the results obtained with the compound Resveratrol (Res), recently described as an inhibitor of the stimulation by PMA of the gene cox-2 (Subbaramiah, et al., 1998). This compound produces an inhibition of the stimulation obtained with PMA+Ion om the stable Jurkat clones.

The validity of the assay system is thus demonstrated due to its similar behaviour for the clones obtained, for the transitory transfections and the

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results obtained with endogenous mRNA. With the use of compounds whose activity on the cox-2 promoter is known, whether they be stimulatory or inhibitory, it is established that it is possible to detect both positively and negatively the basal or induced expression of the cox-2 gene with the assay system developed in present invention.

DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

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A sample of a Jurkat cell line, denominated J-1906-F9, that stably expresses a DNA construct that comprises a promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene and the luciferase gene, has been deposited in the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC) [Salisbury, United Kingdom] on the 24 March 1999 and has been assigned the access number ECACC 99032405.

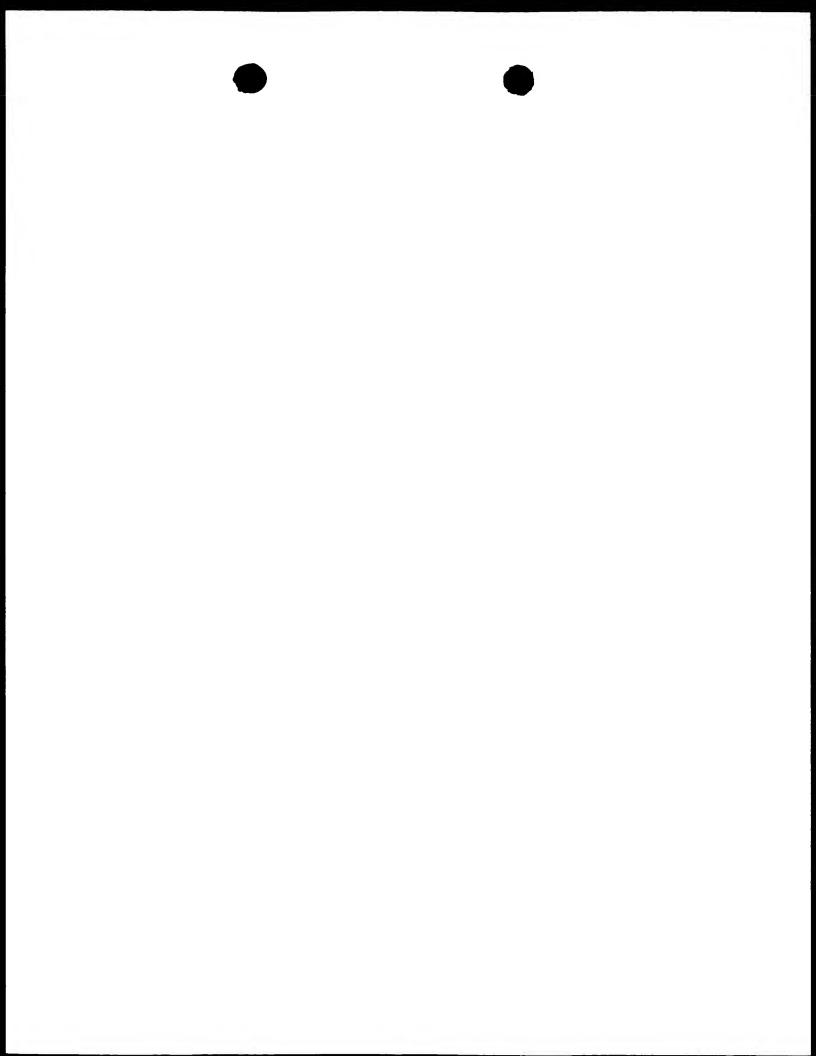
A sample of the plasmid prom2-1906-LUC, inserted into Escherichia coli DH5, denominated DH5 prom2-1906-LUC, has been deposited in the Spanish Collection of Culture Types (CECT) [Burjassot, Valencia] on the 24 March 1999 and has been assigned the access number CECT 5145.

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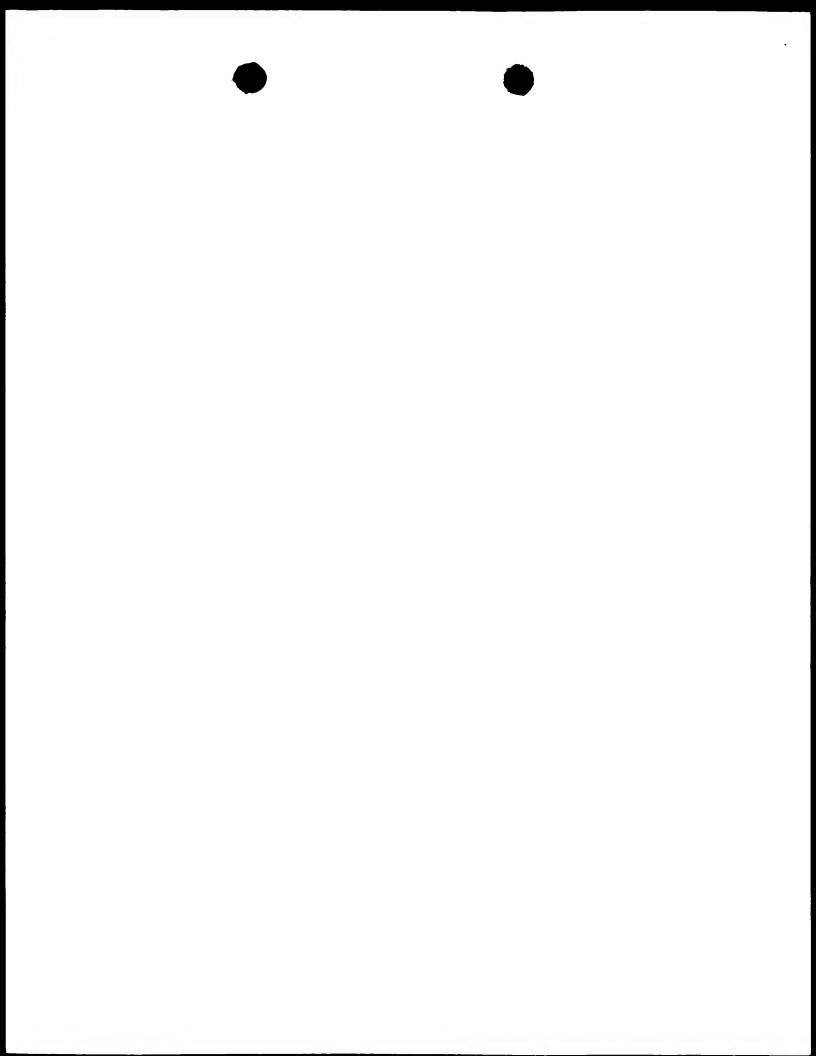
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CLAIMS

1. A DNA construct that comprises the sequence lying between the nucleotide (-) 1796 and the nucleotide (+)104 of the promoter of human cyclooxygenase 2 (cox-2) gene and a reporter gene, operatively joined to each other, such that said promoter sequence of the cox-2 gene controls the expression of said reporter gene in response to a suitable stimulus.

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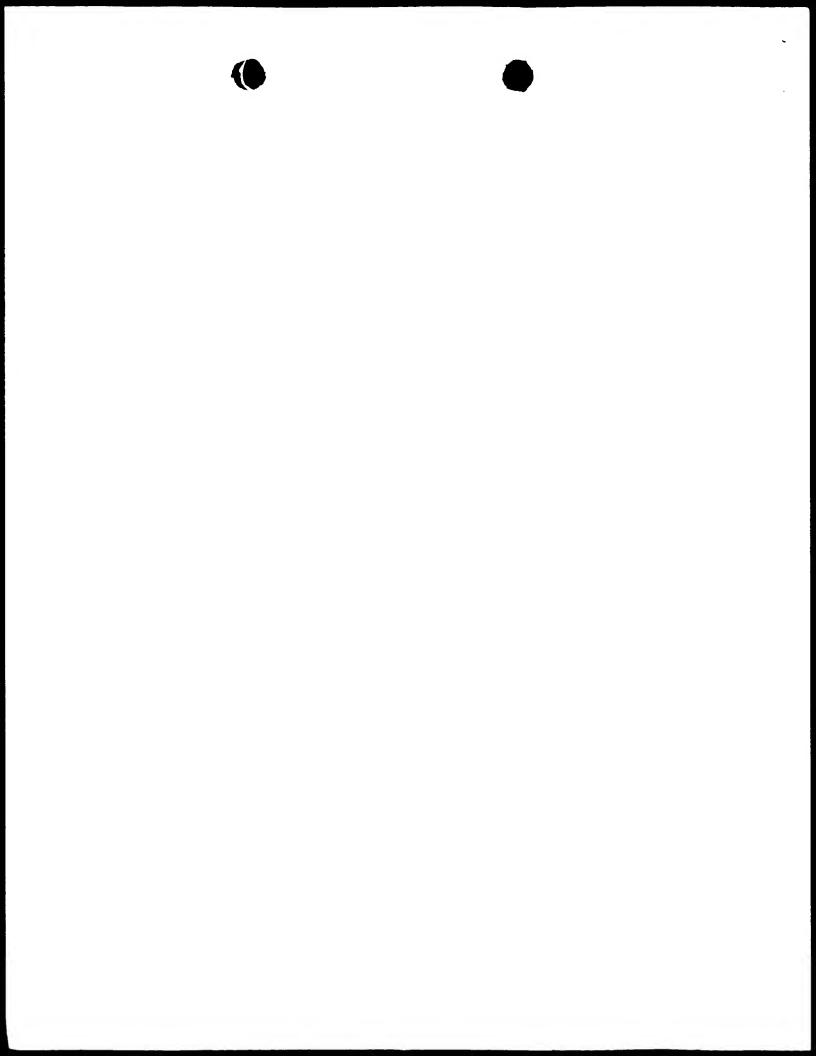
2. A construct according to claim 1, in which said reporter gene is selected from the luciferase gene, the chloramphenical acetyltransferase gene and the gene of beta galactosidase.

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- 3. A vector that comprises a DNA construct according to any of claims 1 to 2.
- A cell line that comprises a construct according
 to any of claims 1 to 2 or transformed with a vector according to claim 3.
 - 5. A cell line according to claim 4, in which said cell line is derived from a cell line of human origin.

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- 6. A cell line according to claim 5, in which said cell line of human origin is a line of Jurkat cells.
- 7. A cell line according to claims 4 to 6 which expresses in stable fashion the DNA construct of claims 1 to 2.



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8. An assay method for the search for compounds that selectively inhibit the induction at a transcriptional level of cyclooxygenase-2 by a suitable stimulus, that comprises bringing a cell line according to any of claims 5 to 7, into contact with a compound whose potential selective inhibitory activity of induction at a transcriptional level of cox-2 it is wanted to assay, in conditions that allow the transcription of cox-2, and detecting, and/or measuring, the signal indicative of the expression of activity due to the reporter gene.



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY.

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International application No.	Applicant's or agent's file reference
PCT/ES00/00245	2000186
International filing date (day/month/year) 11 July 2000 (11.07.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 12 July 1999 (12.07.99)
Applicant	
FRESNO ESCUDERO, Manuel et al	
1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: X in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on: 12 February 2001 (12.02.01) in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on: 2. The election X was was not was n	

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